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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Trump urges restraint after an Israeli strike on Beirut threatened to derail what he calls as imminent peace deal with Iran, **P 12**

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Bihar coaching centre head's bro dies in Nepal

Prince Yadav, an accused in the June 2 attack on Khan Sir's coaching centre in Patna and younger brother of Gyan Bindu GS Academy director Roshan Anand, was found dead at a hotel in Nepal's Biratnagar Saturday. Prince, in his mid-20s, had fled Bihar fearing arrest. He was found unconscious and rushed to hospital where doctors declared him dead, police said. The cause of death is unclear. **P 8**

3 B'luru youths drown in Hassan backwaters

Three youths from Bengaluru—Charan (20), Milan (23) and Manikantha (20)—drowned in the backwaters of Hemavathi reservoir in Hassan district Sunday, police said. Ten youths had visited Dharmasthala, and had stopped at the dam while returning. Cops said some of them went into the water without realising its depth and allegedly did not know how to swim. Rescuers later retrieved their bodies. PTI

2x trade in 5 yrs, N-coop: Modi-Macron Nice meet

To Expand Def, Tech Ties; Decide On 13 Outcomes

Sachin.Parashar
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AP

PM Modi and French President Macron in Nice, France, on Sunday. At Bharat Innovates conclave, Modi said India had built a strong innovation ecosystem over a decade; Macron credited India's 'demographic dividend'

New Delhi: India and France looked to further expand their strategic partnership in a range of areas, including defence, civil nuclear cooperation, trade and technology, as President Emmanuel Macron hosted PM Modi for bilateral talks. Adoption of an innovation roadmap to deepen cooperation in critical and emerging technology, launch of an economic security dialogue, another working group for AI governance and a declaration to double bilateral trade in the next five years were among the 13 outcomes announced after the meeting.

Both sides also looked to ramp up defence cooperation, consistent with India's Make in India initiative. PM Modi and Macron focused on civil nuclear cooperation too, one of the central pillars of the partnership, taking note of India's SHANTI Act that is expected to open up opportunities, including on small and advanced modular reactors. "The field is open for French nuclear companies to start looking at direct participation in the Indian nuclear sector or do so in participation with Indian private sector companies, whether in conventional nuclear power reactors or in more advanced small modular reactors," said foreign secretary Vikram Misri, after the meet.

▶Discuss West Asia, P 7

Ker CM wants 3 VCs at RSS event to 'apologise'

Kochi/T'puram: Kerala CM VD Satheesan on Sunday criticised vice-chancellors of three universities in the Congress-governed state for attending an RSS event where its chief Mohan Bhagwat was a guest and directed them to "apologise".

▶Bhagwat: Several in Pak say Partition mistake, P 8

In an FB post, Satheesan wrote the presence of the VCs of Kerala University, Mahatma Gandhi University and Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University was "unbecoming of Kerala's educational legacy and dignity of their office". TNN

▶Rajeev decries rap, P 8

TMC rebels to merge with little-known regional party

NCPI Of Bengal Set To Be 5th Largest Party In Lok Sabha

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New Delhi: Chances of even a politically clued-in person having heard of Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) are near-zero. It is now set to be the fifth biggest party in Lok Sabha.

In a dramatic development, 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs informed Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla that their group has merged with NCPI — which is registered in West Bengal's Howrah and had contested a few seats in the 2023 Tripura assembly elections — and that they will be backing the BJP-led NDA.

Incidentally, "to save your rights, reject political turncoats" was one of the slogans of NCPI. The merger will make the little-known party the second-biggest bloc (20 LS members) in the governing alliance, after BJP (240), and ahead of TDP (16) and JDU (12).

IANS

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla (centre) flanked by rebel Trinamool MPs in New Delhi on Sunday

The rebels asked Birla to allot them seats with the treasury benches, as they were seated with opposition parties in Parliament till now as members of TMC.

Sudip Bandyopadhyay, who as a sixth-term MP is the most experienced member of the breakaway bloc, also left open the possibility of going to Election Commission to stake claim as "real TMC".

▶'Guided by anti-defection law', P 7

3 Bengaluru cops held in Raj over dowry case bribe

Jaipur/Bengaluru: A Karnataka police sub-inspector and two head constables posted in Bengaluru were arrested Sunday after Rajasthan anti-corruption bureau allegedly laid a trap and caught one of them accepting a Rs 40,000 bribe at a Jaipur hotel. They had demanded Rs 2 lakh to dilute a dowry abuse case filed in Bengaluru, **reports Dishank Purohit**.

▶Deal to dilute case, P 6

Back to future: Mechanical, civil engg students land jobs

CAMPUS HIRING

Bengaluru: This placement season, mechanical and civil students are back in demand in engineering colleges, with many institutions reporting renewed interest in hiring students from core branches. Several colleges have witnessed an increase in the number of companies hiring from core branches for students graduating in 2025-26, **reports Sruthy Susan Ullas**.

Several colleges have been able to place almost 100% of their students. University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) said all their civil students were placed and is hoping the same with the mechanical stream by the end of the season. "The number of companies coming in is better than in the past five years," said placement officer Dileep Kumar, UVCE.

▶Shutting core streams, P 2

US says rescued 14 Indians from sinking vessel

Hours after 14 Indians were rescued from Virat-1, an Indian-flagged mechanised sailing vessel or dhow, sinking off Oman following a mechanical failure, the US navy said it rescued them. However, the Indian mission in Oman and maritime regulator DG Shipping said the rescue operation was carried out through ships in the vicinity, under coordination of Omani authorities. **P 8**

TOI HEALTH+

Danger of a 3-day heart attack

The death of former shooter and coach Jaspal Rana at 49 highlights a little-understood cardiac danger: untreated heart attacks that smoulder for days. Doctors say chest discomfort, breathlessness and fatigue are often dismissed as acidity or strain, causing patients to miss the golden hour when treatment can save heart muscle — and lives | P 7

DKS claims PM support for Bidadi project; BJP, JD(S) appeal to Rahul

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

'CONSPIRACY TO SEIZE FERTILE LANDS'

ON DKS'S CLAIM OF MODI SUPPORT: HD Kumaraswamy says comparison with Gujarat is misplaced. Modi developed barren land; Bidadi township is set to destroy fertile land. On June 21, JDS would hold a padayatra across all 26 villages identified for the project

BJP'S BY VIJAYENDRA TO RAHUL GANDHI: Bidadi project is a conspiracy to seize fertile lands of farmers for real estate business by Congress govt. The decision robs rural women workers of farm-based livelihoods

Bengaluru: The Bidadi Township project, where a work-live-play space is set to come up, has set off a letter war among three major political parties amid claims of cross-party support and calls for a relook of the proposal.

While Karnataka chief minister DK Shivakumar has claimed PM Narendra Modi has appreciated his efforts, both BJP and JD(S) have written separate letters to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, urging him to ask the state govt to review the entire proposal.

Last week, the state govt issued a final notification for land acquisition for the Bidadi project. Union minister HD Kumaraswamy Sunday sharpened his attack on the govt, saying the project is "benefiting land-grabbers and the real estate mafia". He said the agitation against the township would continue till farmers affected by the project get justice. Farmers in three villages are set to lose their land.

Kumaraswamy said the comparison with Gujarat township projects was misplaced. "Modi developed townships on dry and barren land. The proposed Bidadi township is being planned on fertile agricultural land. I don't know if Shivakumar has informed the PM about this reality," he said.

▶Proposal changed, P 4

INDIA THRASH PAK IN WC OPENER

Getty Images

Deepti Sharma (left) ripped Pakistan apart with a 5-wicket haul after Smriti Mandhana (also in pic) had struck a classy half-ton as India thrashed their rivals by 64 runs to make a winning start in the Women's T20 World Cup at Birmingham. India set a 171-run target, thanks to Smriti's 44-ball 68 and Richa Ghosh's muscular 34 (off 17). Except for Muneeba Ali's 35-ball 41, Pakistan batters offered little resistance, folding up for 106 in 17 overs. Earlier, skipper **Harmanpreet did not shake hands** with her counterpart, Fatima Sana, in keeping with BCCI's unwritten policy since the Pahalgam attack | P 14

10% of voters on '25 rolls yet to be mapped under SIR in K'taka

Bengaluru: With less than a week to go before enumeration forms are printed for Karnataka's electorate of 5.5 crore, Election Commission is yet to map about 10%, or 52.4 lakh voters, on the 2025 electoral rolls, **reports Pearl DSouza**.

V Anbukumar, chief electoral officer, told **TOI** the tabletop exercise will continue until publication of draft electoral rolls. "Regardless of mapping status, all voters on the 2025 electoral rolls will receive enumeration forms. They will have to fill these out and submit them when enumerators visit their houses," he said.

▶Least-mapped dists, P 5

US skydiving plane crashes, 12 killed

A skydiving plane crashed Sunday afternoon in central US state of Missouri, killing 12 people on board. The private plane, carrying 11 skydivers and a pilot, turned around for an unknown reason after taking off and crashed near a highway. AGENCIES

Case against US grp over conversion

Based on an ED complaint, Bengaluru police have filed a criminal case against US-based Christian missionary organisation and six individuals from Bengaluru and other parts of the country on charges of funding Naxalism and religious conversion using Rs 95 crore. **P 5**

7 mths on, looted ATM cash to be returned

Seven months after a bank cash van was stopped on a busy road in south Bengaluru and looted of Rs 7 crore, the recovered money will soon be handed back to CMS Info Systems, the custodian of bank cash. Cash was kept in Siddapura police station under tight vigil. **P 5**

Mum airport gets hoax bomb threat

Mumbai airport received a bomb threat via email Saturday. Police declared it a hoax after a bomb detection squad searched the premises and its vicinity. Sahar police lodged a non-cognisable offence against the unidentified email sender. **P 7**

8 die as van falls in Maha farm well

Four women and as many children, drowned after a pickup van carrying 15 people veered off a road and fell into an uncovered 50ft-deep well in Maharashtra's Solapur district Sunday. The extended family were returning from a pilgrimage. **P 6**

Fans tweak work schedules, body clock to catch WC football magic

Cross. Control. Dribble. Goal! Add the alarm's snooze to the play and you have World Cup magic in this part of the world.

In its opening weekend, the Cup has begun capturing Indian fans' imagination and viewers are juggling work, family obligations and tricky time difference to catch the action unfolding at unearthly hours in US, Canada and Mexico.

FULL COVERAGE: P 13, 14
▶Germany beat Curacao 7-1

The five-week long event is still to witness Mbappe's prodigious dash, Haaland's towering presence and the magic of teenaged Yamal. But with the games beginning after midnight and ending at dawn, sometimes even well into the mornings, Indian fans have seemingly stepped into a portal, choosing to live by another continent's clock. The altered routines include saving leave, setting 3am alarms, negotiating childcare, pushing back office mornings, choosing highlights over live action, and deciding early those fixtures that can't be missed. The key, as in many things desi, is jugaad.

Reuters

Kozhikode fans watching Brazil vs Morocco on a big screen

For Indore's Jomon M George, that habit began years ago. As a teenager, he waited for late-night TV broadcasts, collected bubble gum cards of Baggio and Donadoni, and spent the next day arguing football with friends. "Baggio was our favourite," he says. TNN

▶Used all leave, P 6

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Bangalore Times

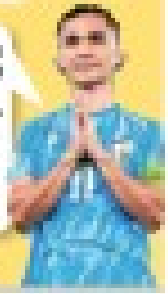
Resurfaced rape joke puts stand-up comedy under scrutiny, again

Talk of the town

Trudeau's supportive boyfriend era rolls on

Boyfriend goals

VOICES



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BEST OF OORU

ARNIKA AHLDAG

Arnika is the director of the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP). She leads the museum's vision and strategy, with a focus on rethinking museums as dynamic, participatory spaces shaped by their publics

What is that one factor that makes Bengaluru's cultural identity unique?

Bengaluru is witnessing the emergence of a new cultural ecosystem, one that is centred around museums, cultural centres, and festivals. Many of these spaces are fairly small compared to other cities, intimate and experimental, which means we get to shape how we build them from the ground up by making them more accessible (both physically and economically) and inclusive through language, medium, partnerships with local artists, and thoughtful integration of technology. But what is truly unique to Bengaluru is its audience. People here are busy, perpetually stuck in traffic, and spoilt for choice when it comes to restaurants and entertainment. That means we need to go the extra mile to make any journey within the city genuinely worth their time. And yet, this is also an audience that is deeply aware of the city they inhabit — people who see themselves as part of a larger global or Asian community, but who love their local experiences just as much

Which is your favourite spot in Bengaluru?

If I'm being honest, my true favourite is where I live, in Cooke Town. A friend once said: Cooke Town is the lie that Bangalore likes to tell itself. And there is a little truth in that. Every evening, when I turn left off the ITC flyover and into Cooke Town, I find myself taking a deep breath. The trees, the feeling of an actual neighbourhood is something to cherish in a busy city. I spot friends going about their errands, neighbours who care about keeping the roads clean and the cats and dogs fed. There are artist-run spaces tucked into bylanes, and golgappas so good that I barely miss Delhi

A lesser-known story from Bengaluru's past that you believe deserves greater attention?

I think the city's history is fascinating, and the demographics have shifted much since the 90s. Bengaluru's cosmopolitan character is deeply historical and often overlooked in mainstream narratives about the city. This city has always been built by people who came from elsewhere. The pete, the network of markets of which Chickpet is a remnant, was an architecture of diversity: each street organised around different communities, languages, religions, and crafts. The Deccani Sultanates left their mark in mosque architecture and Dakhni Urdu. The Lingayat reform tradition brought radical egalitarian theology from the north. Colonial Bengaluru drew Tamil professionals, Urdu-speaking communities, and soldiers from across the subcontinent. Post-independence, Isro and HAL brought scientists from every corner of the country. Then came the IT boom and brought people from across the globe to Bengaluru. Each wave of migration left something behind. I'd love to see institutions engage with this history, as a way of understanding what kind of city Bengaluru has always been & what potential it entails

From pottery tables to theatre-inspired immersive dining, a new wave of city cafes & restaurants has turned the table on traditional idea of eating out, report Nyasa Gupta & Jia Khosla

THE FUN-TASTIC CAFES OF B'LURU

When the first premium-priced supper club opened from a home in Dollars Colony some 15 years ago, Bengaluru lapped it up instantly. Patrons did not blink about the price tag. "The city was very accepting and the club was a big hit. Those who appreciated a new experience and good food waited for their turn since the seating was limited," remembers city-based food critic Aslam Gafoor. Bengalureans have an unusually high appetite for "experiences", he says. Perhaps it's a key factor that is driving the growth of a range of new-wave cafes and restaurants in the city, offering a fun menu beyond just good food.

THE EXPERIENTIAL WAVE

Food or ambience are no longer the sole reason people eat out. Restaurants and cafes are increasingly being preferred by the experience they create around a meal. Good food remains essential, but diners are looking for a takeaway beyond taste — whether that is learning a skill, meeting people, participating in a story, or simply creating a memory.

At PaChaak, the idea of a meal is built around theatre. "It's like watching a play, but you're also a part of it. The food is not separate, it comes in as part of what is happening," says Vinayashree, 31, who had been to PaChaak recently.

The experience begins even before the first course arrives. Guests are seated not just at tables, but within a setting that hints at a time and place, often the 1950s or 1980s. The lighting, the music, and even the pacing of service are aligned with a story that is about to unfold. Food and performance move in unison — courses arrive as the narrative progresses, each dish reminiscent of something significant, say, a coastal setting brings on flavours from Goa. The meal follows a sequence, with a beginning, middle, and end, much like the performance itself.

"We noticed that people were getting bored of going to the same clubs, bars, and cafes, so we wanted to create something different by building a story around food," says Divya Rani, founder of PaChaak.

Arts-and-crafts cafes, a huge draw for the experiences they offer, encourage patrons to "create together". Cafes Bistro Claytopia and Funzy let you paint your own cups, pots, or mandalas while also enjoying the orders. The activity becomes part of the experience, making it feel more engaging and relaxing, and for some even therapeutic.

"I like this place because we get to have an activity to do rather than just eat. It's my second time here," says Satvik. Also on offer in these cafés are board games, private movie screening areas, photo booths, and even workshops.

THE GOOD OL' ARCADES

The gaming arcades — where you go for games and, hence, order a meal as well — have been a hit in Bengaluru for over two decades now. Places like Dave & Buster's and Loco Lane combine food with arcade games, bowling and other activities. Though games are the driving force here, food becomes a happy part of the social gathering of friends and family.

FOOD SOIREES: (Top) An immersive dining session at PaChaak; (above) inside Champaca cafe-bookstore

BEKU: MORE BOOKS

Nothing goes together better than coffee and printed words. What's missing in the busy work-life balancing act is a little quietude, and getting into a cafe stacked with books is always a good idea. That's what places like Champaca, Library Cafe, and Beku have to offer. "We wanted to create a space where people can connect with books in a more personal way. It is not just about reading, but also about building a community through conversations, events and shared experiences," says Prarthana Prasad, who founded Beku. These spaces also organise trivia nights, movie screenings and even author's addresses.

MAKE YOUR OWN MEAL?

Some Bengaluru cafes and restaurants have added the complexity of cooking to the menu, and they are surprisingly popular — places like Si Nonna's and K-Soul Café let you step into the process, be it making your own pizza or ramen from scratch. Si Nonna's imports its ingredients from Italy and uses a sourdough starter that is said to be over 500 years old, adding a sense of authenticity to the experience.

K-Soul Cafe was inspired by recreating the Korean convenience store culture, importing products directly from South Korea to bring that experience to Bengaluru. The love for the South Korean culture mainly drives traffic here. With outlets across the city, these spaces offer a behind-the-scenes look at how your food comes together.

'MEMORIES' ECONOMY

As far as the new-wave cafes are concerned, their business logic is a clear win as a significant part of their revenue comes from the unique activities they curate for their patrons. The arts-and-crafts cafés charge separately for pottery, painting kits, workshop sessions, mandala arts, etc.

These activities usually cost more than the standard menu item. But it's a win for the customers too, who are sensitive about how and where they spend their time, as they pay not only to finish a tasty meal, but also to create a cornucopia of "food memories"!

THE FOOD+ MENU

ON OFFER	WHAT YOU PAY FOR
Theatre Dining	Storytelling, immersion, exclusivity
Arts & Crafts Cafes	Creativity, relaxation, take-home souvenirs
Gaming Arcades	Competition, social interaction, entertainment
A Collection of Books	Community, quiet time, intellectual engagement
Culture Dig	Cultural immersion, novelty
Interactive kitchens	Hands-on involvement, learning, authenticity

A riverside gateway to many adventures

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STREET VIEW

Located about 55km south of Bengaluru, Kanakapura is a town where history and landscape quietly overlap. Set on the banks of the Arkavathi river, it developed as an agrarian settlement that grew under successive southern dynasties—from the Gangas and Cholas to the Hoysalas—leaving behind inscriptions and references that suggest its importance as a local administrative centre.

For many Bengalureans, Kanakapura is synonymous with the busy arterial road that was once part of NH 209 and is now designated NH 948. The first 15-17 kilometres of this route, beginning at VV Puram, pass through densely developed urban and suburban neighbourhoods before gradually giving way to the rural landscape beyond the city.

Kanakapura town began life as Kanakanahalli, a name that survived in records well into the medieval period before being renamed during Kengal Hanumanthaiah's tenure as chief minister.

Although the town itself is not a destination, Kanakapura is a gateway to several tourist places. People also go through Kanakapura to reach Mysuru via Malavalli and Bannur. How it recently emerged as a gateway for DK Shivakumar to the Karnataka chief minister's chair is a story for political pundits to discuss.

The town presents a modest, lived-in facade: narrow roads lined with small shops, govt offices and silk markets. Kanakapura is among India's leading centres for cocoon silk production.

Among its key landmarks is the Kanakapura Fort, now largely in ruins, perched on a hill and offering expansive views of the surrounding countryside. The Ranganathaswamy temple near the ramparts draws devotees from across the town.

But the show stealer is Kote Idli Mane, which dishes out hot idlis with a spicy chutney from early morning itself. For those heading to Mysuru via Kanakapura, Vasu Hotel is another favourite for its ghee masala dose and filter coffee.

Stomachs filled, you can head for a trek at Bilikal Rangaswamy Betta or Kabbaladurga Hills. The trek to Bilikal Betta offers panoramic views of the surrounding forest. For those looking for scenic views of water, Sangama, where the Arkavathi River meets the Cauvery, is a must visit, besides Mekedatu and Chunchi Falls.

GBA to use disused lakes & parks to curb urban flooding

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Bengaluru: Byataguntepalya in northeast Bengaluru, Saneguruvanahalli in west Bengaluru, and Nandi Shettappa in the southern part of the city are names most Bengaluru residents are unlikely to recognise today. These were once lakes that disappeared under layouts, parks, and other developments. Now, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) wants to revive some of their flood-mitigation functions through a new initiative to create "floodable landscapes" across the city.

As part of an initiative of the GBA Climate Action Cell, 19 disused lakes across the city have been identified for intervention. Of these, eight have been completely encroached upon or have been diverted for layouts, stadiums, and parks, while some land is still available in the other lakes.

Floodable landscapes are areas designed to temporarily store rainwater during heavy rainfall and release it gradually after the rain subsides. Apart from lakes, other prominent flooding points have been identified for the project. Silver Jubilee Park near KR Market is one such spot. According to officials, around 2 acres within the park will be developed as a floodable landscape capable of holding excess rainwater for up to 48 hours. Authorities stressed that the park's existing use will remain unchanged and that the designated area would be unavailable only for short periods during heavy rainfall.

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao said the initiative would be implemented over the next two years. "The specifics on costs are still being estimated. We are confident of receiving funding for this," he added.

The concept also includes the use of bioswales, which are shallow landscaped channels designed to redirect stormwater and slow its flow. "By increasing the time taken for runoff to move through the drainage system, bioswales allow more water to infiltrate the ground and reduce the risk of flooding. Such interventions can be implemented even in lakes that have already been converted into parks," Nithya J, GBA's executive engineer currently with the Climate Action Cell, said.

IN THE MAKING: A GBA architect's sketch of the floodable landscape at Silver Jubilee Park, NR Road

Inspired by traditional methods

A senior GBA official involved in the project said the approach draws inspiration from traditional water-management practices that have existed in the region for centuries. "These are nothing but modern terminologies for ancient practices of storing run-off rainwater in agricultural ponds or 'Krushi Hondas' and making channels called 'Paathi's' to improve irrigation," the official said, adding that the engineers ideated this long ago, but had to deal with multiple levels of clearances and delays for this to be finally accepted.

"The initiative gained momentum when the World Bank team mandated nature-based solutions as a key disbursement-linked indicator under its urban resilience programmes," the official added.

Lakes to help mitigate flooding

Konena Agrahara, Lingarajapura, Byataguntepalya, Shivanahalli, Anche Ramanna, Kamakshipalya, Saneguruvanahalli, Geddalahalli (RMV), Tavarekere, Karisandra, Chikkallasandra, Ittamadu, Nandi Shettappa, Doresanipalya, Bilekahalli, Arehalli, Vijinapura, Bovimaranahalli, and Gundopanth lakes are the 19 identified waterbodies.

Woman found dead, boyfriend unconscious

Bengaluru: A 22-year-old woman, S Bhavani, was found dead next to her boyfriend, Chandrashekhar alias Chandu, who was unconscious, at her Magadi Main Road residence in Byadarahalli.

The woman's father, Srinivas, a cook, lodged a complaint with Byadarahalli police, accusing his daughter's boyfriend of murdering her.

Srinivas told police that he decided to get Bhavani married to another man of his choice after he learnt about her relationship with Chandu. Bhavani worked as a billing assistant at a mobile showroom on Magadi Main Road and lived in a nearby rented house.

Friday morning, a family member shared a photograph of Bhavani with Chandrashekhar. "I called her up but she did not answer. We alerted her house owner. He said the door was locked from inside. We then informed police who broke open the door and found the two lying on the floor. Bhavani was dead and Chandrashekhar was unconscious. I accuse Chandrashekhar of murdering my daughter," Srinivas stated in his complaint. TNN

Trapped in cab, she refused to give up

Quick-Thinking Woman Escapes Predator-Driver

Chaithanya.Swamy @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: What was supposed to be a routine cab ride home after spending an evening with her sister turned into a terrifying fight for a 27-year-old woman in the tech capital. Alone in a cab in the early hours of Wednesday, she found herself facing an alleged sexual predator. But her quick thinking and determination helped her thwart what police say could have become a far graver crime.

Pragya (name changed), a native of Assam, had spent Tuesday evening at her sister's house in A Narayanapura. She booked an Ola cab at 12.37am Wednesday to return to her employer's residence, about 13km away.

The cab, allegedly driven by 42-year-old **Isub**, arrived shortly afterwards. Pragya settled into the rear seat. As the journey progressed, she noticed that the driver was not following the route displayed on the navigation map.

Concerned, she questioned him. The driver allegedly brushed aside her concerns, claiming there was heavy traffic ahead and that he was taking an alternative route.

Unsatisfied, Pragya continued to monitor the journey.

Instead of heading towards her destination, the driver allegedly steered the vehicle through multiple roads before reaching a dark and isolated stretch near a school at Aduru Cross. There, he made a U-turn and suddenly stopped the vehicle.

Immediately sensing that something was wrong, Pragya demanded to know why he had halted the cab and insisted that he continue driving. According to her complaint with Avalahalli police, the situation quickly escalated into a nightmare. The driver allegedly left the front seat, entered the rear section of the vehicle and began making unwanted physical advances. Despite her repeated protests, he allegedly restrained her and molested her. She alleged that he attempted to remove her clothing and sexually assault her.

Despite being trapped inside the vehicle, Pragya refused to give in. Instead, she fought back. She dialled her husband and started shouting for help. According to police, she screamed into the phone: "Yeh driver mujhe maar dalega, maar dalega (this driver will kill me, kill me)". Her cries and resistance appeared to have rattled the driver. Realising that another person was on her phone and the commotion could draw attention, the driver allegedly pushed her out of the vehicle and attempted to flee. But even then, Pragya did not back down.

She grabbed the driver's collar through the window and ran alongside the moving vehicle, demanding that he stop. Although the driver ultimately managed to speed away, her actions helped create a trail of evidence and alerted others to her distress.

Her husband, who had heard her frantic cries over the phone, rushed out in search of her and alerted the 112 emergency helpline. Meanwhile, a passerby who had noticed her crying chose to stay with her till cops and her husband arrived.

Police recorded her statement and launched an investigation. Avalahalli police later arrested Isub, a resident of Shantinagar, and booked him for sexual harassment and assault with intent to disrobe a woman. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

SAFETY TIPS FOR TRAVEL IN CABS

- Always **track the route** on your phone. If the driver deviates from the route without a valid reason, question it immediately
- Send the vehicle number, driver's details and live location to a **family member or friend**
- Stay connected and alert. **Avoid falling asleep or getting completely engrossed in your phone.** Call a friend or family member and let the driver know someone is aware of your whereabouts
- If the driver takes an unfamiliar route, stops unexpectedly or behaves suspiciously, press the **red emergency button in the car or dial 112**
- Sit in the **rear seat,** preferably behind the driver, and have easier access to the door

Internships yielding job offers, says PES

▶ Continued from page 1

The reason for the high percentage of placement could also be because of the lower number of students when compared to other streams. "Many colleges have shut down the core branches; in some others, the intake has been reduced to a small cohort of students. With this, in the campuses that have students in these branches, the demand is high for them," noted KN Subramanya, principal, RV College of Engineering.

Ramaiah Institute of Technology dean, training and placements, Sreenivasa Ramanujam K said that there is at least a 20% increase in the number of companies coming for mech and civil students, including companies working with drones and electric vehicles.

"We were able to attract around 60 companies. There are more discussions happening with companies working with drones and EV-related vehicles. Yet another related branch called industrial engineering and management IEM is also doing well this time. While 51-53 of the 60 students have been placed so far, the others are also likely to find placement in the next two months," he said.

> "This reflects a strong comeback of India's core economy, driven by infrastructure growth, manufacturing expansion, EVs, renewable energy and industrial capex. What is also changing is the balance between domain and technology skills. Companies today are not just looking for pure core engineers, but professionals who understand design, automation, analytics, simulation tools, AI-led operations and smart manufacturing. This convergence of engineering fundamentals with digital capability is making mechanical and civil graduates far more relevant and employable than they have been in recent years.
>
> **Neeti Sharma** | CEO, TeamLease Digital

PES University said the pattern is how internships are getting converted to job offers. "Either students have been placed or have internships. The trend this time was to get internship offers and that getting converted," said KS Sridhar, placement head.

Cambridge Institute of Technology said while all mechanical students were placed, civil engineering is also nearing 100%.

"While it was picking up last year too, this year has been really good. In terms of admissions to the first year, there's a demand for management seats in civil, mechanical and electrical programmes this year," said BV Ravi Shankar, principal of the institute.

Sikkim woman killed at B'luru home, lover held

Bengaluru: A 22-year-old woman from Sikkim, working in the city as a receptionist in a salon, was allegedly murdered at her Doddakannahalli residence in Bellandur Sunday.

The victim is Ati Hangma Subba. Police said her boyfriend, Purba Lepcha, a hotel waiter, slit her throat after suspecting her fidelity. He has been arrested.

Lepcha is from Darjeeling and came to Bengaluru with the woman a month back in search of work. The murder took place after the two had a heated argumentand the accused used a kitchen knife to kill the woman, police said. TNN

10km lake run promotes eco awareness

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The inaugural Bengaluru Lake Run held Sunday brought together citizens, environmentalists, and fitness enthusiasts for a 10km run connecting Jakkur and Rachenahalli lakes in north Bengaluru.

Organised under the supervision of minister and Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda as part of Environment Day celebrations, the event aimed to raise awareness about conservation while encouraging physical fitness and community participation.

WIDE OBJECTIVE: Sunday's run also aimed to encourage fitness and community participation

The run was held amid the scenic surroundings of the two lakes, which have emerged as important public and ecological spaces in the city.

Organisers said the initiative sought to strengthen citizens' connection with Bengaluru's lakes and highlight the need to protect urban waterbodies.

Apart from the main 10km run, the participants could also take part in the 'Majaa Run', which featured timed and untimed 3.5km runs, allowing people of different age groups and fitness levels to join the event. The participants completed the routes, displaying enthusiasm, endurance, and community spirit.

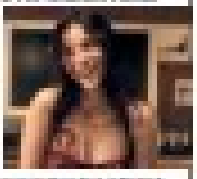
According to the organisers, close to 3,000 people took part in the event.

All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance - Martin Luther King

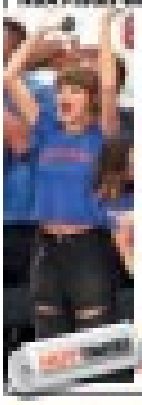
UP TO DATE

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

How will we greet Anurag Kashyap alone fewer shows for Indian films



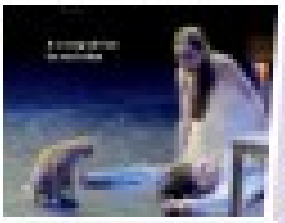
Timothée Chalamet lands star-studded crowd on Knicks and NBA Finals vibe



Tyra Banks says Netflix for defamation

Believe it or not!

The purr-fect cameo in Romeo-Juliet's love story



A feline in search of the limits

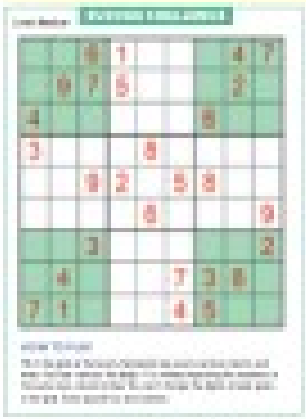
From tragedy to viral comedy

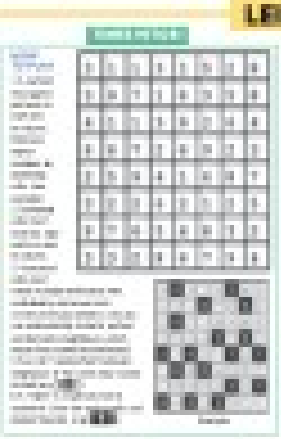
Love's labour is no longer lost

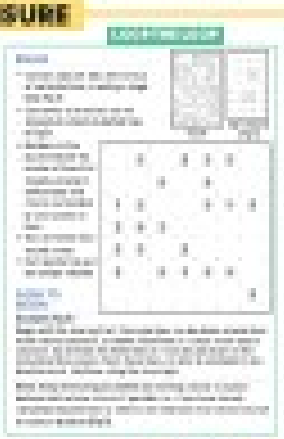
POV

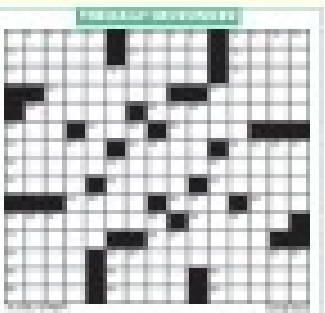
R

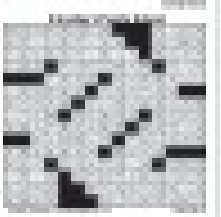
LEISURE

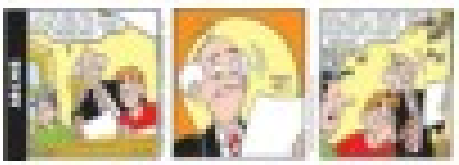


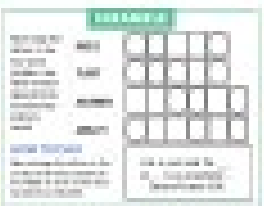


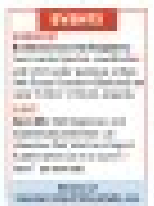












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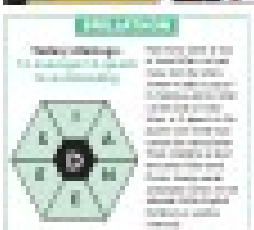
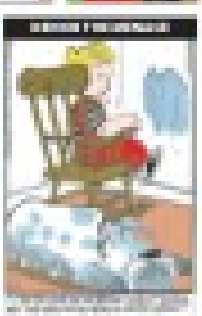
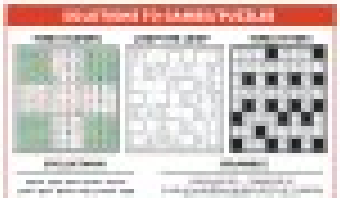






IITs may stop disclosing JEE Advanced rank to eliminate bias

Varsities must tweak cybersecurity curricula to address threats

As AI, CSE surge ahead, core engg grapples with falling cut-offs and fading interest

CLASSIFIEDS

Wedding Put On Hold After Groom Reaches Stage With Half A Beard

Sources confirm regular shaver batteries quit under ceremonial pressure

BP MACHINE SHUTS DOWN MID-READING

EARLY REPORTS POINT TO REGULAR BATTERIES AS CAUSE OF POWER FAILURE

POWER NEEDED FOR TRIMMER

(Batteries which can't last and stop mid-way need not apply) - Anuj M.

WANTED

Power for BP machine that doesn't stop mid-way

400% LONGER LASTING POWER WANTED

- Shweta's Toy Robot

NEED POWER THAT WINS

Power Partner For Gaming Mouse

Tired of weak batteries costing me the game

3 BHK FLAT NEEDS BATTERIES THAT LAST FOR ALL GADGETS

- Trimmer
- Smart Remote
- Gaming Controller
- Toy Car
- BP Machine

And more

Power that doesn't stop mid-way preferred

HELP WANTED

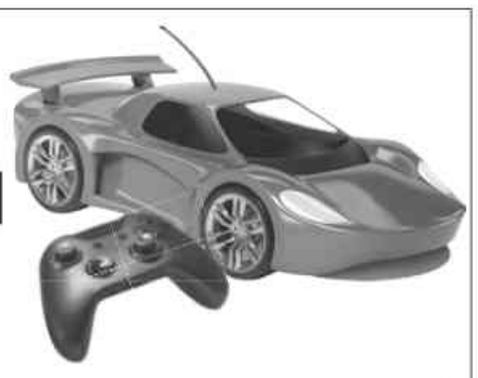
TO FIND LONG-LASTING POWER FOR GAMING CONTROLLER.

Batteries must be willing to work overtime. Especially on weekends.
Regular batteries not wanted.

POWER NEEDED

For dancing cactus that wants to dance longer

IN NEED OF POWER THAT DOESN'T CRASH OUT MID-RACE



- Rohan's Toy Car which is tired of regular batteries

TOY ROBOT LOOKING FOR POWER THAT DOESN'T STOP MID PLAY

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

Batteries of Captain Chinu's toy fire truck just died while it was reaching for an emergency. There's a huge fire out break.

NEED POWERFUL, LONGER-LASTING BATTERIES.

HURRY UP!

Wanted:
Power for Electric Toothbrush that is tired of stopping mid-way through morning brushings

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GIVE ME POWER, GIVE ME RED

ULTIMATE POWER FOR YOUR DEMANDING DEVICES

400% LONGER LASTING*

EVEREADY ULTIMA ALKALINE

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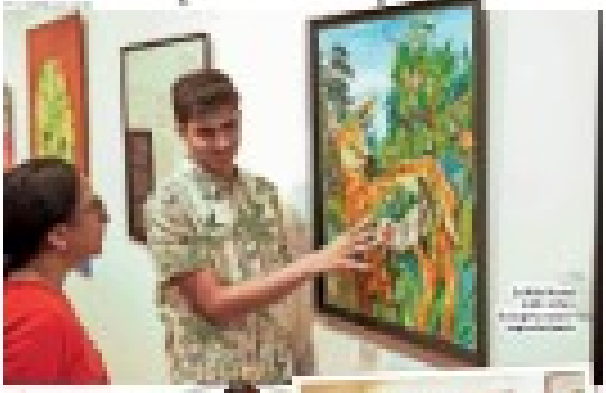
*400% longer lasting than IS 8144:2025 R6P standard for motor/toy. Results may vary as per devices or usage pattern.
#Claim as per Nielsen IQ Retail index Data for the period MAT Oct 2025 in the Battery Category

Viswanathan Anand's son Akhil's nature-inspired art display in B'luru



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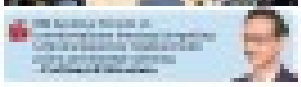
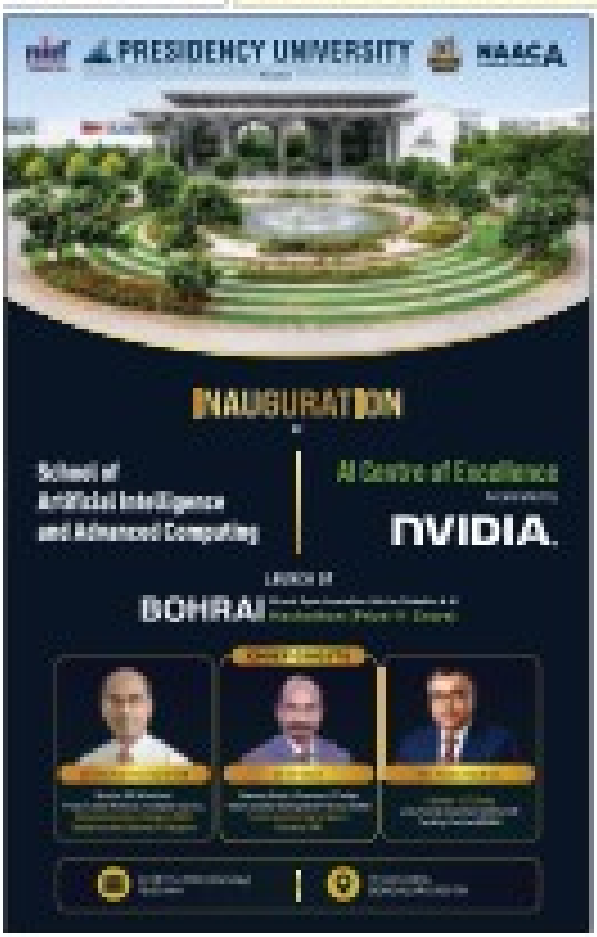
New IIMs should prioritise AI-integrated management pathways over salary metrics





Cong faces problem of plenty as youngsters seek cabinet berths

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: While the brass of governing Congress continues to grapple with portfolio allocation among senior functionaries, it is also facing growing pressure to accommodate younger legislators in the council of ministers.

Over 70 legislators, most of whom will camp at a resort from Tuesday ahead of legislative council polls, are reportedly in contention for ministerial positions, making it a problem of plenty for chief minister DK Shivakumar.

He is likely to expand his 14-member (including the CM) cabinet after council polls end on Thursday (June 18). At present, there are 24 vacancies.

Last week, a group of relatively young legislators, led by minister Krishna Byre Gowda, met the party high command in Delhi to press for greater representation of emerging functionaries in the cabinet. The delegation included Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, Hangal legislator Srinivas Mane and Ajay Dharam Singh, who represents Jevargi in the assembly.

"We have sought six to seven cabinet berths for younger legislators, keeping in mind the interest of the party's future," said one MLA.

The demand has gained momentum amid what functionaries describe as a "strong push" from Lok Sabha opposition leader and AICC functionary Rahul Gandhi for the induction of younger faces into the cabinet.

> Most of Karnataka's population is youngsters and they need to be represented at the cabinet level. Fresh faces and youngsters will bring new ideas and energy into governance. I am confident the Congress high command will consider these aspects during expansion and provide an opportunity to youth
>
> **Rizwan Arshad** | SHIVAJINAGAR MLA

Currently, the average age of Shivakumar's council of ministers stands at 61 years. The youngest is urban development minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah, while food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa, at 78, is the oldest.

Congress Legislature Party includes some 40 first-time MLAs, while another 30 to 35 legislators have been elected several times, creating a substantial pool of aspirants for ministerial positions.

Political observers say cabinet expansion will likely pose a challenge for Shivakumar, who must balance demands for generational change with regional, caste and community considerations.

Community representation remains a key factor in discussions. Representatives from the Muslim community, citing strong electoral support for Congress, are reportedly seeking four cabinet positions.

Simultaneously, the dominant Vokkaliga community, to which Shivakumar belongs, and the Lingayat community, which already has senior functionaries holding major portfolios, are expected to play an important role in shaping the final composition of the cabinet. This could potentially limit opportunities for younger aspirants from those groups.

Regional representation is also expected to influence selection. The coastal belt and the Malnad region currently lack representation in the cabinet, increasing the likelihood that legislators from those areas could be considered when the cabinet is expanded.

GUARANTEE SCHEMES WILL CONTINUE, SAYS SHIVAKUMAR

Labelling them rumours, CM DK Shivakumar dismissed suggestions that the govt's flagship guarantee schemes would be halted and insisted the welfare programmes, especially Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyothi, will continue without interruption.

In a statement issued Sunday, Shivakumar urged the public not to believe what he called "false propaganda" being spread by the opposition.

He explained that the govt has only initiated a reverification exercise to identify genuine beneficiaries and prevent misuse of the schemes. He reiterated that instances had been detected where fraudulent claims were made using fake documents, and bank accounts were opened in the names of deceased persons.

IANS

TALKING ISSUES: State Congress president BK Hariprasad called on chief minister DK Shivakumar at Kumara Krupa on Sunday

"Beneficiaries have been asked to re-submit details only to verify names, addresses and bank accounts. This exercise is not intended to stop any of the guarantee schemes," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP state president BY Vijayendra Sunday accused the govt of trying to "drastically reduce" the number of beneficiaries due to the financial strain.

Vijayendra told reporters in Bengaluru Congress had failed to properly assess eligibility criteria before rolling out the schemes and is now trying to exclude lakhs of beneficiaries. He cited statements by Congress members, including MLA RV Deshpande and former chief minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser Basavaraj Rayareddi, who reportedly acknowledged the financial burden imposed by the schemes.

Vijayendra also took a swipe at Congress over the ongoing cabinet expansion exercise, alleging that there were only two "quotas" to become a minister — a "management quota" and a "payment quota" — and claimed that ministerial berths were being decided accordingly.

West Asia crisis, imports hurting rupee: Sitharaman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Sunday said the ongoing West Asia crisis and India's dependence on import of three major commodities — crude oil and gas, fertilisers and gold — is weakening the rupee against the dollar.

However, she said India remained among the world's fastest-growing economies and that unemployment was easing.

"Whenever there is a severe fluctuation or volatility in rupee versus the dollar, the RBI intervenes," she said. "It is not to fix a price but to stop the slide. Also, our reserves are falling because of foreign institutional investors (FII) and foreign direct investments (FDI) booking profits and exiting the country due to strategic investments developing in the US. This is causing the fluctuation."

But the West Asia crisis, she said, is the more significant challenge

"Since we do not produce enough crude and gas, and because of the limited domestic supply of fertilisers and gold, a huge amount of forex is going out which is adding to the rupee versus dollar situation," she said.

She said the govt is importing fertiliser at about Rs 3,000 per bag and selling it to farmers at Rs 300 – a subsidy of Rs 2,700. But she insisted it wasn't only the rupee which is under pressure, but currencies such as the Japanese Yen and the Korean Won had also fallen sharply.

Despite these constraints, Sitharaman said India's economy is growing and that periodic labour force survey data indicated unemployment was declining.

She criticised the opposition for repeatedly questioning the performance of the economy.

"Even this year's GDP shows every sector, whether services or manufacturing, has grown substantially," she said. "But when the leader of the opposition constantly says every scheme or decision is going to turn into an economic disaster, then it is as good as undermining peoples' efforts."

Sitharaman also acknowledged disruption across industries due to higher reliance on artificial intelligence (AI). "There is a churn because industries are using AI to get perfect results," she said. She said the govt is offering AI-based training to help people return to industry with skills needed to protect their jobs.

Muthu P

CLEAN-UP JOB: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and state BJP functionaries participate in a Swaach Bharat programme organised to mark PM Narendra Modi completing 12 years in office, in Bengaluru on Sunday

PMO DIRECTLY MONITORING NEET ISSUE

Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman Sunday said the prime minister's office (PMO) is directly overseeing the NEET issue. "It is not that the PM is not speaking on the issue. He is getting work done. A collective effort has been made to resolve the issue," she said.

RESPECT ANNAMALAI'S DECISION, SAYS FM

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the departure of K Annamalai from BJP should not be viewed as an incident arising from personal reasons, but from differences of opinion. She said BJP is a cadre-based organisation and will continue its work.

"There have been several instances in the past of functionaries, including BS Yediyurappa ji, the father of our party president BY Vijayendra, quitting the party. But when he came back, we respected him for his decision. BJP respects members when they quit the fold and when they return also. The party does not hold grudges," she said.

SIR stripping voters of rights: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Haveri: Congress chief whip in the legislative council, Saleem Ahmed, criticised the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise and accused the Election Commission of "concentrating on deleting names and behaving like a puppet of the Union govt rather than enrolling voters".

"Congress will not accept any move to rob people of their fundamental right to vote," he said at a press conference Sunday. "SIR is being used to restrict voting rights of backward communities, minorities, and SC and ST groups," he said.

MLC and SIR in charge, FH Jakkappanavar, said voters must keep key documents ready, including passports, property papers, residence certificates, caste certificates, and proof of date of birth. "If people do not fill in forms when BLOs visit homes, they could lose their voting rights. This may impact access to govt benefits," he said.

Govt surveying 3.5 lakh hectares of land

Pearl.DSouza@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Aware that lower courts are choked with cases disputing ownership, the revenue department has fast tracked the process of cleaning up land records and is currently surveying 2.6 lakh properties comprising about 3.5 lakh acres.

Since Independence, the govt granted about 13 lakh parcels of land amounting to more than 10 lakh acres to various people, including people from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes ex-service personnel and freedom fighters.

Rajender Kataria, additional chief secretary (revenue), said several large parcels were given to groups of people under joint-ownership. There was no clear demarcation on what belonged to each member of the group.

ENSURING CLEAN TITLES

To subdivide the land and provide each eligible individual with a clear title, the govt launched the Darkhast-Podi system. From Independence till 2023, about 15,000 subdivisions/podi were completed. Of these, about 8,400 were completed between 2018-23.

"The process has picked pace over the past three years," said Kataria. "While we have mapped all 13 lakh land grant parcels, 2.6 lakh plus properties have been put on fast track for subdivisions. Of these, 55,248 subdivisions were completed between 2023-26."

He said some of the properties are at the village accountant level, and an automated process will approve and verify ownership. In other cases, documents are missing and a committee headed by the district deputy commissioner will peruse govt records for evidence of direct or indirect ownership.

Once subdivided, each owner is given a unique 14-digit land parcel identification number (ULPIN). The land is also geo-fenced, guaranteeing ownership.

Kataria looked at clear land titles as a means to reduce cases in lower courts and high courts, emerging from civil disputes. He said the govt is looking to complete the subdivision process in the next two years.

44 cases filed in e-com food safety drive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: During a two-day special inspection drive across e-commerce food warehouses in Bengaluru and other parts of the state last week, Karnataka Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) booked 44 adjudication cases for violations.

FDA sources said penalties amounting to nearly Rs 2 lakh were imposed in 44 cases, which involved expired products, misbranding and other violations. Expired products worth Rs 2.3 lakh were seized.

The drive was undertaken to assess compliance with food safety, cleanliness, and hygiene standards. Officials drawn from across the state inspected warehouses operated by major e-commerce platforms and other food business operators.

Of the 266 units identified for inspection, officials inspected 236, while 30 were found closed, non-traceable or otherwise unavailable for inspection. The drive also resulted in the issuance of 65 notices to food business operators (FBOs) for various non-compliances.

FDA officials said the inspections were aimed at ensuring compliance with food safety norms and safeguarding public health.

Water level drops, ancient structures re-emerge at Kabini dam

Shrinivasa.M@timesofindia.com

Mysuru: Thanks to scanty rain in the catchment area of Kapila river — especially HD Kote in Mysuru and Wayanad in Kerala — and water level in Kabini backwaters receding, several ancient structures on the dam bed have re-emerged.

Officials say if the water level falls by another couple of feet, remains of the famous Mastigudi village are also expected to be visible.

Data on Sunday showed the water level at Kabini dam was at 2,252.8 feet against the maximum of 2,284 feet. During the same period last year, the water level was 2,276.5 feet. On Sunday, inflow into the dam stood at 1,114 cusecs as against last year's 2,461 cusecs. The highest inflow to the dam this season was 2,446 cusecs — on June 11.

Authorities say after the Kabini dam was built in 1974, 22 villages and 14 hamlets were submerged. These areas were home to an estimated 21,000 people and housed several temples and cultural sites. "Due to weak monsoon, inflow into the dam is yet to pick up," an official said. "Many locals come and offer puja to the relics. If the water rises to 2,256 feet, these relics will get submerged again."

Madhusudhan SR

BIG DRAW: Locals regularly offer prayers and puja to ancient relics at Kabini dam. Falling water level is due to scanty rainfall in HD Kote and Wayanad, the catchment area

The reappearance of the structures and the receding water level has pushed up tourist footfall at the backwaters. Locals say many who visit cause environmental damage to the area.

"A big challenge is consumption of alcohol near the backwaters," said Choudaiah, a local. "It is causing problems even for wild animals. Police and the forest department must crack down on the issue."

HDK: 2006 proposal changed in 2 decades

▶ Continued from page 1

Kumaraswamy responded to Shivakumar's assertion that the Bidadi Township was originally his idea. He, however, said the 2006 proposal has changed significantly in the past two decades. "It is not right to displace farmers merely to make money. It is not advisable to push ahead with a township project out of sheer stubbornness," **Kumarasway** said.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra has written an open letter to Rahul Gandhi seeking his intervention, calling the project a conspiracy to seize fertile lands of farmers. He alleged that the decision will rob rural women workers of farm-based livelihoods.

In a similar letter, JD(S) youth wing state president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has alleged land acquisition violates Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. Nikhil said JD(S) would hold a padayatra across 26 villages, identified for the township project, on June 21. He alleged the project would adversely affect 755 farming families across three villages through the acquisition of nearly 500 acres of land. According to him, 82% of the affected landowners are marginal and poor farmers, while many belong to Dalit and backward class communities.

2 kids drown in farm pond

Bengaluru: Two minors, including a girl, drowned in an agricultural pond in Doddaballapur Rural, police said.

The tragedy took place when Daksha M, 11, and her neighbour, Dhanush P, 4, who were returning home with their cows Friday, waded into the pond. Noticing their long absence, their parents started searching for them late in the evening and found their bodies in the pond, police said. Police booked a criminal case of causing death due to negligence against the owner of the pond, Guru Murthy. "There was no proper fencing to the pond, which was filled with rainwater," an investigating officer said.

Following the incident, police recorded a video clip requesting the villagers not to venture into ponds and lakes. TNN

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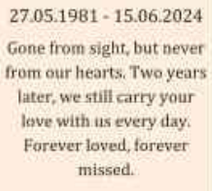
DEATH ANNIVERSARY

2nd Death Anniversary



Smithaa Karthik
27.05.1981 - 15.06.2024
Gone from sight, but never from our hearts. Two years later, we still carry your love with us every day. Forever loved, forever missed.
Remembered by Akshara, Karthik & family

— Sad Demise —
Usha Manohar

31-05-1957 to 14-6-2026
(Proprietress- Murali Enterprises- Indane Distributor)
With immense anguish we inform the sudden demise of our beloved Usha Manohar on 14-06-2026.
Mortal remains in state at Bairavi Cruz Luxor, B-302 on 15-06-26 from 9 am to 11.30 am
Cremation at Kalpalli Electric Crematorium at 12.15 pm
Deeply mourned by -Dr. Sundar Ram Shetty (Husband)
- Priyanka Manohar (Daughter)
- Hemesh Chandavarkar (Son-in-Law)
- Partha Manohar (Son)
- Cmde Udai Rao (Retd) - Brother
- Naresh Rao (Brother)
- Dia & Aarav (Grandchildren)

1st Year Remembrance
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

SRI N. RAJANNA
(Former MLA)
10 OCTOBER 1940 – 15 JUNE 2025
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A year has passed, but your love, guidance and memories remain forever in our hearts.
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Smt. Jagadamba Rajanna and Family

NANDINI
Remembering you today, and everyday.
Air Marshal EPR Nair (R) and Savithri Nair

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mrs. Vishalakshy Banappa
19-11-1948 - 15.06.2025
(Ex Vijaya Bank Employee)
Director, Banashankari Mahila Cooperative Bank, Bengaluru
ONE YEAR HAS GONE BY, AND NOT A DAY PASSES WITHOUT US THINKING OF YOU. YOUR LOVE AND THE MEMORIES WE SHARED REMAIN OUR STRENGTH. WE MISS YOU BEYOND WORDS, AMMA!
Fondly remembered by
Chintu, Pappa and Munna

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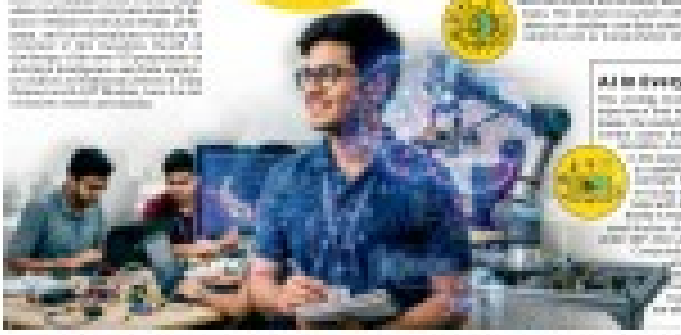

Contextual Prompting: Asking the right questions in AI era

Measuring the real ROI of a B-school

Cognitive Science breaks out of labs to embrace computation, linguistics, philosophy

Case against US missionary outfit for funding Naxal activities, conversion

ED Files Plaint With City Cops, Flags ₹95cr Trail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TARGETING THE VULNERABLE

Bengaluru: Based on a complaint filed by officials from the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), city police have registered a criminal case against US-based Christian missionary organisation The Timothy Initiative (TTI) and six individuals from Bengaluru and other parts of the country, on alleged charges of funding the spread of Naxalism and religious conversion using around Rs 95 crore.

The complaint was filed by Sunil Kumar Sinhmar of the ED (New Delhi) at Kothanur police station. The case has been registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) and relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The ED complaint alleges that the accused organisation bypassed Indian financial regulations and foreign contribution laws by using a network of foreign debit cards. More than 1,000 foreign-issued debit cards were allegedly distributed across India, with multiple cards operating under the name "Santosh Kumar".

Investigators found that an estimated Rs 92.5 crore to Rs 95 crore was channelled and utilised through these transactions between Nov 2025 and April 2026. An additional Rs 44 crore was withdrawn using similar methods between Jan 2024 and March 2026.

The funds are also being investigated for their deployment in TTI's multi-level "church planting" and religious outreach models targeting vulnerable populations in these tribal and conflict-prone belts, the complaint stated. Prima facie evidence revealed that large-scale cash withdrawals were being routed into left-wing extremism-affected areas such as Bastar and Dhamtari districts in Chhattisgarh, a senior police officer told **TOI**.

Investigators are scrutinising whether these funds were diverted to fuel Naxal operations, conversion, and unlawful activity. The accused named by cops are Jonathan S Rajan from Glorio Apartments-Doddagubbi Road, Ajit Verghese Mathai from Kothanur, Micah Mark of Yadava Layout (intercepted at Bengaluru airport with 24 foreign debit cards), Supreme Joy from Mysuru, Varghese Chacko from Chhattisgarh, and Bablu Kurmi from Assam.

The FIR also mentions the alleged destruction of electronic evidence, specifically claiming that a backend database account was deleted by one of the accused to conceal financial tracking.

₹7cr dacoity cash set to leave Siddapura stn after 7 months

Rajiv.Kalkod
@timesofindia.com

File photo

TIGHT SECURITY: All this time, the cops have stored the money in a steel almirah guarded by armed constables round the clock

Bengaluru: Staffers at Siddapura police station are looking forward to Tuesday, when a local court is expected to order the return of Rs 7.1 crore, recovered in a sensational armed dacoity case, to its owner CMS Info Systems.

For nearly seven months, the cash recovered intact from the accused has remained under tight security at the police station.

"Since the recovery made in Nov last year, the cash was kept secure inside a locked steel almirah. As a precautionary measure, no outsiders, not even other staffers from our station, were allowed into the room. It was guarded round-the-clock by armed police constables working in shifts. At every meeting, senior IPS officers would inquire about it," a senior police officer said. The money was recovered following an extensive investigation into the Nov 19, 2025, heist in which a gang intercepted a CMS cash van carrying Rs 7.1 crore along the Ashoka Pillar-Jayanagar-Dairy Circle route. The accused arrived in an SUV bearing a fake 'Govt of India' sticker and posed as RBI officials conducting a routine verification check.

The gang allegedly forced the van staff out, transferred the cash boxes into their vehicle, abandoned the employees near the Dairy Circle flyover and fled.

Siddapura police arrested nine people: J Xavier, a former CMS employee, Annappa Naik, a suspended police constable, Gopal Prasad, a CMS fleet supervisor who did the planning, and Ravi, his brother Rakesh, Naveen, Nelson, Dinesh and Jinesh, who executed the plan.

Police recovered the entire stolen money from hideouts across Bengaluru, Chittoor, Tirupati, Hyderabad and Chennai. The cops have since filed a 1,328-page chargesheet.

Least-mapped districts: BBMP South, Central

▸ Continued from page 1

The least-mapped districts remain BBMP South (69.9%), BBMP Central (70.3%), BBMP North (71.9%), BBMP Urban (79.9%), and Raichur (88.6%). The highest-mapped regions are Kodagu (98.6%), Ballari (97.8%), Bagalkot (97.4%), Chitradurga (97.2%), and Chamarajanagar (97%).

The numbers have been driven by progeny mapping exceeding 100% — relatives of voters in the 2002 electoral rolls who were either too young to vote then or had been left out. Of 34 districts (including Bengaluru Urban and BBMP North, Central, and South), 30 have recorded progeny mapping of more than 100%. If progeny mapping was excluded, the number of voters from the 2002 electoral rolls who were mapped would drop to 72%.

THE CALENDAR

Date	Event
June 20	SIR begins
June 20–29	Staff training & preparation
June 30 –July 29	Door-to-door voter enumeration
Aug 5	Publication of draft electoral rolls
Aug 5 –Sept 4	Claims and objections period
Aug 5 –Oct 3	Verification of objections
Oct 7	Final electoral rolls

Total electors (including progeny)
5,55,74,064

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Many Pocso cases filed without finding survivor's age: Judge

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: While sexual harassment cases against minors are often looked into with great seriousness, allegations in certain cases turn out to be baseless because of a lack of a proper age determination process, high court judge **G Basavaraja** said.

Addressing members of the Surgical Society of Bangalore Saturday, he said: "In many Pocso cases, I have come across appeals and also as a sessions judge, I have found that the patient, who came for the delivery and at the time of giving history, stated her age was 17. Immediately, doctors informed police and the child development officer."

He said at the Surgeons' Day event that on receiving information from the medical practitioner, a case gets registered against the accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, resulting in a minimum sentence of 20 years. He warned the surgeons that, without determining the age scientifically, it is not appropriate to inform police.

Justice Basavaraja's statement comes at a time when Karnataka reported the fourth-highest Pocso cases (3,278) in a year, according to the National Crime Records Bureau 2024 report. Of 1,145 Pocso survivors in the state (boys and girls), 1,041 belong to the age category of 12-16.

"If the survivor or the parents or guardians have produced a birth certificate or SSLC certificate, then we can write the age accordingly. But in many cases, there is no document on the date of birth," he said.

He clarified that while an offence is committed regardless of consent if the survivor is a minor, the same does not apply once she has attained majority. Consequently, if the sexual act is consensual after majority, it does not fall under the definition of Section 375 of the IPC.

The judge pointed out: "Recently, I have acquitted four to five (people in) cases in which, without ascertaining the age of the victim, police and the concerned medical officer have intimated the CDPO and police."

Citing one such recent case, Justice Basavaraja revealed that the man was falsely convicted. "The apex court has held in many decisions that in Pocso cases, it is the duty of the prosecution to prove that as on the date of commission of events, the prosecution has to prove that the victim was a child.... through an ossification test (bone age test)," he said.

NEET row: Students demand minister Pradhan's resignation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

CJP PROTEST: Apart from examination irregularities, participants also raised concerns over privatisation, corruption and environmental issues, at the protest in Freedom Park Sunday

Bengaluru: Students, parents and activists gathered at Freedom Park Sunday demanding the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET paper leak controversy, alleging repeated failures in the country's examination system.

The protest, organised by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), also saw participants raise concerns over privatisation, corruption, and environmental issues. The demonstrators accused the central govt of failing to address examination irregularities that they said had affected lakhs of students across the country.

CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das said 24 lakh students had been impacted by examination-related irregularities and questioned the govt's response to repeated paper leak allegations. "Students seeking justice are treated like pests, and that cannot be accepted. Dharmendra Pradhan accepted moral responsibility and promised reforms two years back, but another paper leak has taken place. Is this what the students deserve?" Das said.

Actor Prakash Raj said young people were refusing to remain silent despite being labelled in various ways for questioning those in power. "If the govt has any shame, the education minister should resign. This generation is not interested in mandir-masjid politics but in asking questions about corruption and the future of students," he said.

The protest also coincided with the birth anniversary of revolutionary leader Che Guevara, with participants invoking the slogan "Educate, Agitate, Organise" while calling for reforms in the education system.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said, "Systemic failures have shattered the dreams of students who wanted to become doctors and professionals. Those who raise their voices are branded as cockroaches, but we are fighting for ordinary students and for justice."

Education reformer Sonam Wangchuk said the paper leak issue pointed to deeper structural problems within the education system. "The paper leak is only a symptom of a much deeper crisis in our education system. Fixing exams alone will not solve the problem if the system itself remains flawed. We need accountability, fair governance and an education system built on integrity rather than fear," he said.

Dipke also called for a nationwide mobilisation in Delhi on June 20, saying that the movement would continue until accountability was ensured and reforms were implemented.

Evening rain slows traffic, floods roads

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Narasimha Murthy

MORE RAINFALL THIS WEEK

Bengaluru: Evening showers on Sunday brought 14.5mm of rainfall to Bengaluru, according to IMD. The rain led to waterlogging and slow-moving traffic in several locations across the city.

Traffic jam was reported at Windsor Manor towards Railway Parallel Road, Lulu Mall towards Majestic, Peenya Flyover on Tumakuru Road, RV Teachers' College Junction towards Ashoka Pillar, Masjid Road towards Lalbagh West Gate, Anandapura Junction towards TC Palya, GRT Junction in KR Pura, Siddapura Road in Tubarahalli, Vibgyor School Road towards Balagere, Varthur Kodi near Forum Mall, Sagar Junction near Dairy Circle, Bilekahalli Junction, Hulimavu towards Arakere Junction, Kengeri towards Mariyappanapalya and Bapuji Nagar, and the Ayyappa underpass towards Madiwala police station.

Traffic was further affected by the breakdown of BMTC and KSRTC buses on Bannerghatta Road, at Kamakshipalya, and near the IOC Junction.

IMD has forecast a generally cloudy sky on Monday, with heavy rain or thundershowers. For Tuesday, IMD has predicted a generally cloudy sky with isolated light-to-moderate rain.

Two die in road accidents

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Two men died in separate road accidents in and around the city since Saturday night.

In the first incident, reported around 11pm in Anekal, Anwar Pasha of Krishnagiri died after the motorcycle he was riding on skidded while trying to avoid a crater on the road at Vanakanahalli. Pasha was travelling to Anekal on official work with colleague Prathul, who sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment.

Unknown vehicle rams into bike of 30-year-old

In the second accident, on Sunday, 30-year-old Aravind Kumar, a resident of Nandini Layout, died on the spot after an unidentified vehicle rammed into his motorcycle near Kalkere in Bannerghatta.

Karnataka exports grow 9.5% in FY26, B'luru continues to drive momentum

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

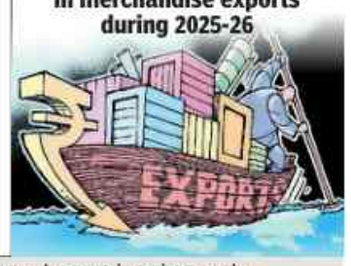
Bengaluru: Karnataka's exports grew by 9.5% year-on-year in 2025-26, with Bengaluru continuing to power the state's export economy through its strong services and technology base, while also contributing significantly to merchandise trade.

According to an analysis by Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), the nodal agency under the state's industries and commerce department for promoting international trade, Karnataka's total exports stood at approximately Rs 19.7 lakh crore in the year 2025-26, up from Rs 18 lakh crore in the previous financial year.

Software and services remained the largest contributors to the state's export basket. Exports from the sector rose to around Rs 16.4 lakh crore, compared to Rs 15.1 lakh crore in the previous year. Merchandise exports also registered robust growth, increasing to nearly Rs 3.3 lakh crore from Rs 2.9 lakh crore.

> We have been in the top five for many years and intend to maintain that position. Our department is encouraging exports by offering incentives. The state already accounts for nearly 60% of India's defence manufacturing, and we are introducing several policies, including a new industrial policy with significant incentives for manufacturing
>
> **MB Patil** | INDUSTRIES MINISTER

Karnataka retained its position as India's top software and services exporter and ranked fourth in merchandise exports during 2025-26



> Merchandise exports such as engineering goods, petroleum products, chemicals, textiles, coffee, and aerospace continue to perform well due to sustained demand, while manufacturing remains challenging because of infrastructure and skilled manpower constraints. The relatively slower export growth this year is largely due to global uncertainty arising from ongoing global conflicts
>
> **Uma Reddy** | PREZ, FEDERATION OF K'TAKA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Engineering goods, basic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics recorded healthy growth during the year. However, petroleum exports declined to Rs 4.3 lakh crore from Rs 5.3 lakh crore in 2024-25. At the district level, Bengaluru Urban emerged as the largest contributor, accounting for exports worth Rs 10.6 lakh crore. Dakshina Kannada, Kolar, and Bengaluru Rural followed. Districts such as Bengaluru South, Ballari, Hassan, Kodagu, and Mandya recorded notable export growth, while Haveri, Dakshina Kannada, and Dharwad reported decline.

Karnataka retained its position as India's top software and services exporter and ranked fourth in merchandise exports during 2025-26. The state outperformed the national average in the first quarter, recording a 12.5% growth in combined merchandise and services exports, compared to India's overall export growth of 5.5%.

In the second quarter, merchandise exports grew by 27.6%, while services exports increased by 8.7%, resulting in overall export growth of 11.4%. Iron ore and minerals, engineering goods, automobile, agriculture, marine products and aerospace recorded strong gains, while textiles, garments, coffee, gems and wool products saw a decline.

The US, UK, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore and China were among Karnataka's major export destinations during the first half of the financial year. Exports to the Middle East also strengthened, led by engineering goods, electronics, organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, coffee and spices.

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B'luru cops struck ₹2L deal to dilute dowry case

▶ Continued from page 1

Sub inspector (SI) Anitha K and head constables Ulavappa Tegur and Yatish, posted at HAL police station in east Bengaluru, allegedly demanded Rs 2 lakh from a Jaipur resident, whose wife had accused him and his family of dowry harassment, ACB officials said.

According to ACB sources, the Bengaluru resident had a love marriage with the Jaipur man in May 2025 and filed the case in Feb this year.

Bengaluru's Whitefield deputy commissioner of police Saidulu Adavat said state police had not yet received formal communication from Rajasthan ACB. "Only after receiving relevant documents like FIR and case details, we can react," he said.

The trio travelled to Jaipur as part of the probe and pressured family members to pay the bribe to clear them of the allegations, an ACB officer said.

Cop made repeated calls

The man approached the bureau after Ulavappa allegedly made repeated calls seeking money and asked him to meet at a hotel. Officers said the complaint was verified Saturday night and a trap was laid the next day.

A team led by assistant SP Bhupendra allegedly caught Ulavappa accepting Rs 40,000 as part payment. Anitha and Yatish were questioned and later arrested.

A case was later registered under Prevention of Corruption Act. During the operation, Anitha's health deteriorated and she was given medical assistance. Officials said a preliminary examination indicated high blood pressure.

'Used every type of leave—casual, sick, even loss of pay—to ensure I didn't miss games'

▶ Continued from page 1

Jomon said he has watched every World Cup edition since 1994, the last time incidentally that it was played in the US with similar all-nighters before the TV sets. He wasn't going to miss this one either. Despite the many online alerts at hand, the MO is unchanged: fixtures marked in advance, work finished early when possible, power naps before the big games and shrill alarms set for those times when resolve alone cannot be trusted.

Few fans may manage that kind of dedication. But everyone recognises the labour — and love — behind it. The World Cup does not enter their lives as a four-week distraction; it becomes the month around which routines are rebuilt.

At home, the negotiations can be even more exacting. Kolkata's Jayitri Sengupta, currently working in Melbourne, has a three-year-old child, so she and her husband began a savings kitty over a year ago. The 'investment' would help hire a cook and babysitter for the month, just so taking care of the child would not come at football's expense. "We were able to make the arrangements," she says with brimming pride.

A long distance away, Mohammed Asif, 41, a businessman in Hyderabad's Manikonda and a father of four, remembers World Cups through images that stayed with him — Ronaldo's haircut in 2002, Zidane's headbutt in 2006, Spain's tiki-taka in 2010 and Mario Gotze's extra-time winner in 2014. The Brazil edition tested him the most, he remembers, because it coincided with Ramzan and many matches began around midnight or 3 am India time.

Then in the corporate sector, he used all the tricks the rule book allowed. "I used every type of leave available — casual leave, sick leave, compensatory offs and even loss-of-pay days — to ensure I didn't miss the key games," he says, "It also meant plenty of coffee and constant fatigue, but it was worth it."

This time, Asif's night begins only after his children are tucked in bed. On June 12 and June 13, he made sure they were in bed by midnight before sitting down to watch the opening games of the current edition. "Fans do find a way," he offers philosophically.

Old-timers measure not only what they watch but how watching itself has changed. Analendu Roy, 51, an educationist from Visakhapatnam, has followed the World Cup since 1986, when Diego Maradona led Argentina to a famous victory.

With telecast entering smartphones, and thus, a more private experience, Roy misses the old collective viewing culture. "When we watched football matches — together in packed rooms with 40 or 50 people — the atmosphere was different," he says, rueing, "Today, people stare into their devices. The excitement is there, but that shared experience is gone."

That packed room Roy misses today has not vanished entirely. It has moved and changed shape. In Shillong, Mangami will watch group-stage matches alone on his laptop but will shift to sports bars or join local watch parties when the actions hots up from the Round of 32 onwards.

Of course, it's easier for the young. Shaheen Fathima, 26, from Auroville, a content creator and Germany supporter, says her strongest memory is of the World Cup in Brazil, when games overlapped with sehri. She scoffs at the idea of it being tough to wake up at 3. "Football," she adds, "has widened my curiosity about flags and cultures. Watching it has expanded my curiosity to learn new things."

What's bailing out thousands of fans across the country is that peculiar bharta of jugaad, sacrifice and sheer will power. Deepak Arora, a young factory worker in Sonipat, has wrangled from his boss a change in shifts for the next few months.

"Millions have made compromises to see the games," Arora, 31, says, "Watching the World Cup is the closest I can get to see those who God ordained to play, perhaps like gods themselves."

4 women, 4 kids die as van falls into well

Kolhapur: Four women and four children, including a six-month-old boy, drowned Sunday after a pickup van carrying 15 people veered off the road and fell into an uncovered 50ft-deep well on Mhaswad-Pandharpur road in Maharashtra's Solapur district, **reports Abhijeet Patil**.

The accident took place at Tandulwadi village in Malshiras taluka around 3.45pm.

Police said victims and survivors belong to the same extended family from Pandharpur. They were returning home after a pilgrimage to a temple in Satara district. Assistant police inspector Ashish Kamble said the exact cause of the accident is being ascertained.

The square-shaped well was located on a private agriculture plot close to the road and had no protective barriers, police said.

CM Devendra Fadnavis and his deputy Sunetra Pawar released separate statements on X, describing the tragedy as "very unfortunate and painful" and condoling the deaths.

"The state govt will give financial assistance of Rs5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased," Fadnavis said.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DIRECTORATE OF STATIONERY & PRINTING DEPARTMENT, CHENNAI - 2
Dir.No.T1/12350/2026 **TENDER NOTICE** Dt.12.06.2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited along with required samples for fixing rate contract for the purchase of P.S Plates, CtP Plates, Printing inks, Chemicals,Oil and lubricants, Rubber Blanket, Packing Materials, Binding Materials, CSPL Cartridge / Riso Toner from Manufacturers/Distributors and Authorized dealers as per the following schedule.

Sl No	Groups & Items	Tender Form can be accessed	Tender closing date and time
1	Group I to VIII (1.P.S Plates, 2.CtP Plates, 3.Printing inks, 4.Chemicals, Oil and lubricants, 5.Rubber Blanket 6.Packing Materials, 7.Binding Materials and 8. CSPL Cartridge / Riso Toner)	From 15.06.2026 To 14.07.2026 11.30 AM	14.07.2026 11.30 am

Tender forms can also be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in & www.stationeryprinting.tn.gov.in**

DIPR / 2054 / TENDER / 2026

The Director, Directorate of Stationery & Printing Department, 110, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.

25001/384/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO- SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296, Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online RCK- 11/26 Letter No. 3819 Date : 11.06.2026

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work : Tender for the Road works under (MMSY-TRIP) in the Dist. of Jajpur.
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK - 11/26	23.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	09.07.2026 to 05.00 P.M.	09.07.2026 upto 02.00 P.M.	10.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
OIPR - 25001/25129/1/26-27/0007

10001/275/2627
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar -751 001
Tel. : (0674) 2380608, Website : https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Notification No. 5484/OSMCL/2026 Date : 11.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING Re-Tender for Selection of Service Provider for Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Service in the State of Odisha

Online Bids through e-Tender portal **(https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible Service Providers for Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Service in the State of Odisha as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1	OSMCL/ 2026-27/ Re-tender_BEMP/01	Re-tender for Selection of Service Provider for Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Service in the State of Odisha	Rs. 5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	11.06.2026, 10.30 AM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	18.06.2026, 11.30 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		25.06.2026, 3.00 PM	15.07.2026, 5.00 PM
4	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	20.07.2026, 3.00 PM	
5	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director, OSMCL
OIPR-10001/10112/1/26-27/0003

32001/398/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN
AT/PO: LAXMIPOSI, DIST: MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id. cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 05/26-27 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1	Name of Work	Road Work
2	Total No of Projects	3 Nos
3	Estimated Cost	Varies from Rs.454.70 Lakh to Rs.628.71 Lakh
4	EMD	Details can be seen in the DTCN of bid documents of the respected works
5	Period of Completion	Details can be seen in the DTCN of bid documents of the respected works
6	Class of Contractor	"A" Class and Special Class
7	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	22.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.
8	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	06.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
9	Date of opening of bid	07.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
10	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer & Basin Manager**
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin
Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
OIPR-32001/32429/1/26-27/0003

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business

FOR SALE

BULK SALE KIDS GARMENTS CHURIDAR, PANT ,SHIRT ,JEANS ,FOR BULK/LOT SALE ONLY.7996369995

RUNNING ICSE SCHOOL for SALE at Thiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu . Contact : 9710034876

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SHREE Gajanand Ent. Loan Avail in 6days. Busi. Property Proj.,Indus,PL@4% PA agents Wlcme 9568316395, 9568380165 P-190, Lake Town, Kolkata-89

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

RMV EXTENSION

RMV II stage, near Club, 50*90, Bungalow for sale, Prime Location, Asking 25 Cr, Contact 9845687913

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

BDA Site at Arkavathi Layout for Sale First Block, Jakkur, Site No 1018 (North East Corner Site - very good for Vasthu) Measurement: (11.00 + 4.60)/2 (East to West) & 18 (North to South) = 140.40 Sq Mtrs. Total Area = 1511.27 Sq Ft. Site is 3 sides Surrounded by Roads with North 40ft East 40ft and South by 30ft 5 minutes approach to New Airport Road/up-coming Metro Station. Premier Locality with good infrastructure with Kaveri Water and surrounded by Sobha Academy, Opp to MSR Unicorn Heights. Contact No: 9845950789 & 9632577700

GOA PROPERTIES

FOR SALE

LUXURY Villa for Sale Assagao,Goa Stunning 4BHK pvt pool villa,4500 sq.ft, Lush garden, premium interior. Price 9.50cr Owner 9997442851

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM NO. NCLT. 3A
Advertisement Detailing Petition
C.P No. 35/BB/2026 –
M/s Pro Nature Organic Foods Pvt Ltd *... Petitioner*
Vs
Registrar of Companies, Karnataka *... Respondent*

Notice of Petition

A petition under Section 131 of the Companies Act, 2013, for voluntary revision in the Books of Accounts of the M/s Pro Nature Organic Foods Private Limited ("Company") was presented by authorised representative on the 29th day of May 2026 before Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench ("Hon'ble Bench"), and as directed by Hon'ble Bench Company is giving this public notice of petition, further the the said petition is fixed for next hearing before Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on 10.07.2026.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition it should send to the company and petitioner's authorised representative, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition on the below mention address.

Petitioner Companies Address
PRO NATURE ORGANIC FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U15315KA2006PTC040572
Add.: Plot No. 3B, Hoskote KIADB Industrial Area, Pillagumpa, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru – 562114
Email Id: amod@csak.in
Ph No. 7066829401
Authorised Representative's Address
AMOD SUNIL KULKARNI & ASSOCIATES,
663, 5th Main Rd, Opposite Bandhan Bank, B Channasandra, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560043
Email ID: amod@csak.in,
Ph. 7066829401

Where person seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice.

A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

For **PRO NATURE ORGANIC FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED**
Sd/-
Mr. Varun Gupta
Director
Plot No. 3B, Hoskote KIADB Industrial Area, Pillagumpa, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru –562114
Date : 15.06.2026
Place: Bengaluru

TENDERS

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Procurement Department, 1st Floor, Union Bank Bhavan, 239 Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021

RFP FOR ONBOARDING CONSULTANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RBI GUIDELINES ON INTEREST RATE RISK IN THE BANKING BOOK (IRRBB)

Union Bank of India invites offers in two bid system for Onboarding Consultant for Implementation of RBI guidelines on Interest Rate Risk in the Banking Book (IRRBB) through GeM portal**(GeM Bid No-GEM/2026/B/7652589 Dated 11.06.2026). Further details are available on Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.bank.in. Last Date for receipt of offers in prescribed form is 06.07.2026 up-to 04:00 PM.** The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Assistant General Manager

NOTICES

HATSOFF HELICOPTER TRAINING PVT LTD. BANGALORE IS INVITING QUOTATIONS / TENDER
to provide **FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES** at our Company located in Bangalore. Scope of Work / RFP can be requested through email : **contactus@hatsoff-training.com.**
The last date for submission of proposal is **15th July 2026.** Contact **+91 7760046977 / 9620540662** for any queries.

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

GRAPHICS & DSGN

REQUIRED Graphic Designer– Photoshop/ Corel Draw/ Illustrator Experience 1 Year or above in around Rajajinagar. Contact: 9108458798/ 9845579620

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of purchasing the property bearing Apartment **No. L-18, on 18th Floor of NIWA** of **KESSAKU**, being built on property bearing Municipal No.1, situated at Dr.Rajkumar Road, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, and the apartment is measuring **4860.59 Sq feet of Carpet Area** and exclusive balcony/deck area measuring **1121.40 Sq ft** and exclusive Varandah/personal lobby appurtenant to the apartment measuring **122.30 Sq ft** totally measuring **8350 Sq feet of super built up area**, along with right to use **4 covered car parking spaces** in basement levels 1/2/3, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" from its present owner **Mrs.Radhika Yathin W/o Yathin Sabapathy**.

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or period, in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our client, should write to the undersigned within ten days **(10 days)** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Apartment **No. L-18, on 18th Floor of NIWA** of **"KESSAKU"**, being built on property bearing Municipal No.1, situated at Dr.Rajkumar Road, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, and the apartment measuring **4860.59 Sq feet of Carpet Area** and exclusive balcony/deck area measuring **1121.40 Sq ft** and exclusive Varandah/personal lobby appurtenant to the apartment measuring **122.30 Sq ft** totally measuring **8350 Sq feet of super built up area**, along with right to use **4 covered car parking spaces** in basement levels 1/2/3 and bounded on:

East by: Apartment No. L18 of MIZU building **West by**: Open towards Open space in the development "Kessaku"; **North by** : Apartment No. L18 pf SORA building; and **South by** : Open towards Open space in the development "Kessaku"

Sd/-
L.S Kiran Mayee Reddy, Advocate
Kiran Mayee Law Firm
No. 10, G1, Naveen Apartments, 13 th Main Road, Palace Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
Ph no. 97391 63474

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 15-06-2026

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

IMMEDIATE JOINING Only Female GNM/BSc Nurses for reputed School Medical Rooms at Gunjur-Varthur Road, Hulimavu and near Nice Road, Bannerghatta Road. Good Salary and Day Shift Job. To apply, WhatsApp your CV to 9591990945 or email: hr@addresshealth.com

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Mr. Deepak Sugadan and Mrs. Anusri Deepak, residing at D-306, Vedant Vayun, Begur-Koppa Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560068, parents of our minor son, hereby declare that the name of our son appearing as "VIDYUT" in Passport and as "VIDYUT DEEPAK" in Aadhaar and other records, pertains to one and the same person. We are changing his name in the passport records from "VIDYUT" to "VIDYUT DEEPAK" for all future purposes

BOOK YOUR EDUCATION ADS
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO Adstimesofindia.com

"I, Aaryan Shinde / Aaryan Snehal Shinde, aged 17 years, residing at Door 910, 1st Main, 1st cross, Geetanjali Lyt, HAL 3rd stage, New Thippasandra Bangalore 560075, do hereby declare that my name is mentioned as Aaryan Shinde in my 10th Marks card given role No. 18123795 and Aaryan Snehal Shinde on my Aadhar Card No. 472685806499. Both names belong to one and the same person for all future purposes, vide affidavit No. IN-KA88702439028546Y sworn before Notary Public A R Muneer Ahmed Regd No. 4932 at Bangalore on 12.06.2026"

I Giri Bala Devi wife of late Gajendra Manjhi resident of D-5, BHEL-Township, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-40 have changed my name from Giri Bala Devi to Giri Devi vide Affidavit dated 12.06.2026 at Bangalore.

I, VENKAT SATYA CHANDRA LAKSHMI NARAYANA ,S/O; SATYA SAI BABA BORUSU,R/O: BLOCK B,331,MAHAVEER TUSCAN APT,BASAVANA NAGAR MAIN ROAD,HOODI,BLR-560048. Have changed my name as LAKSHMI NARAYANA BORUSU.

I Delisia Roy W/O, Roy Sebastian T R/o 202, Olive Nest Apartment ,btm 6th Stage V V Road, arekkere, bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Delisia M P.

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

25001/386/2627
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ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର
Office order No. 2850 // Dated. 10.06.2026

1st corrigendum Bid Identification No. Building Tender Online RWCSBP-04/2026-27.

Following modifications are hereby made to the notice inviting tender vide this office Bid ID No.Building tender Online RWCSBP-04/2026-27 for the work "Construction of Block level Stadium under Barpali Block (Without indoor hall) in the district of Bargarh for the year 2025-26".

1. The availability of tender online for bidding may be read as 10.06.2026 from 11.00 AM to 23.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM instead of from 28.05.2026 from 11.00 AM to 16.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
2. The last date & time for seeking clarification may be read as 20.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM instead of 12.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
3. The date & time of technical opening bid may be read as 24.06.2026 at 11.00 AM instead of 17.06.2026 at 11.00 AM.

All other terms and condition remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W.Circle, Sambalpur.
OIPR-25001/25091/1/26-27/0013

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (PIU)-USDMA
Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness & Resilience Project (U-PREPARE)
5th Floor, USDMA Building, 36, IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, DEHRADUN
Website: www.u-prepare.com, E-Mail procurement.uprepare@gmail.com

Ref No: 361/A-31/PIU-USDMA/U- PREPARE/2025-26 Date: 13.06.2026

Request for Quotations

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Project (UPREPARE). PIU-USDMA, an implementing agency of U-PREPARE intends to apply part of the proceeds for the procurement of goods under the following package.

The quotation document in English may be downloaded by interested eligible bidders from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in** from **15.06.2026**

S. No.	Package No.	Name of Package	Method of Procurement
1.	02/GOODS/CERC /PIUUSDMA/ 2026-27	Procurement of 14 Nos. Satellite phone Man-pack Antenna Kit for USDMA	Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Note:- 1. Any corrigendum /addendum to the above package shall be uploaded on the website www.uktenders.gov.in
2. For any clarification or information, bidders may contact - **pcme.piuusdma@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Program Manager

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.CGM(Tech)/DGM(APCC&PROC)/EE-4/AE5/2026-27/1535-550 Date:12.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry No. & Name of the Work
KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3813 Providing additional 1x500MVA(4th), 400/220kV Transformer at Existing 400/220kV **Hoody sub-station** in Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. On total turnkey basis including Supply of all Materials/ equipment's , Erection (Including dismantling and Civil Works) of all materials/equipment's ,testing and commissioning. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **16.07.2026 @ 15:00hrs.**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 17.06.2026. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech),
KPTCL, Corporate Office, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre Thiruvalla Organizes

Mode - Online
Data Analytics for Finance Professionals

COURSE CONTENT: • Data Analytics in Income tax • Gst Trends and variance analysis • TDS Reconciliation using excel tools • Tally data extraction for analysis • Pivot Tables for MIS reporting • Forecasting, revenue, expense, tax • Anomaly Detection in journal entries • GST input/Output Mismatch analysis • Profitability by cost center tally • Automate reports using Macros.

Date/ दिनांक:	22nd to 25th June 2026
Time/ समय:	6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Fees/ शुल्क:	3540/- With GST
Contact Number:	9944971623, 8129988725
Website:	ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in

Scan QR for Registration
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Chief Engineer (Cauvery Headworks), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore - 560009

No. BWSSB/CE(CH)TE/TA-01/109/2025/166/2026-27 Date: 11.06.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the work of **Up gradation of 400 MLD IV-Stage Phase-I Water Treatment Plant Electro- Mechanical Equipment's at TK Halli**

Amount Put to Tender : **Rs. 387.60 lakhs**
EMD Amount : **Rs. 5.90 lakhs**

The Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **14.07.2026 upto 15.00 hrs.** The bids will be opened on: **15.07.2026 at 16.00 hrs**. The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1145/Zen/2026-27

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Cauvery Headworks)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
GSTIN: 03AAFCP5120Q1ZC
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR, PSPCL, THE MALL, PATIALA
E-mail: finance-advisor@pspcl.in, Tel. No. 9646118057, 9646103335

Notice Inviting Tender

RFP No. 01 Date 15-06-2026

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) invites online bids, till 11.00 hrs. on 10-07-2026, for selection of Transaction Advisor cum Merchant Banker/Arranger for mobilization of Rs. 10,000 crore through proposed issuance of NCDs/bonds from all SEBI Registered 'Category-I' Merchant Bankers, whose registration is valid for at least last five financial years i.e., since 1st April 2021. More details on the Services are provided in the RFP document.

Availability of RFP documents	Can be downloaded from website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 16th June, 2026 (zero date) onwards
Last date for submission of bids	11.00 hrs. on 10-07-2026
Opening of Technical bid	12.00 hrs. on 10-07-2026
Bid validity period	120 days from the date of opening
Pre-Bid Conference	Bidders interested to participate in the pre-bid meeting are required to get themselves registered by sending an email to Financial Advisor, PSPCL at finance-advisor@pspcl.in with name, designation and mobile numbers of persons interested to participate latest by 23rd June, 2026 Date and time of Pre-Bid Conference shall be intimated by email.

Note: Corrigendum(s) & addendum, if any, shall be published on **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** only.

Sd/-
Financial Advisor,
PSPCL, Patiala
C652/26, DPR/Pb.: 1079/12/2026-27/12332

Reimagining CS education for India's digital economy

DAAD's FTT initiative aims to bridge the gap between foreign students and local employers

India-US varsities move towards joint IP creation in AI

Volume driven to value driven: Canada's new internationalisation strategy

The Inefficiency Economy

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI

Opportunities lie everywhere. And in India, everything that doesn't work creates room for something that does. Sort of. Take inverters and generators. Because power supply is erratic in many parts of India, a new market is born. An unreliable power situation does harm in many ways, but at least one way, it creates opportunities for some.

Or take air purifiers. The worse the pollution, the better the sales of this gadget. A water filter depends on our water supply being contaminated. Home storage water tanks are needed because we get water supply for only a few hours a day. Borewells are dug because of the same scarcity. Voltage stabilisers and surge protectors because the quality of the power supply fluctuates dangerously. UPS systems because a backup is needed. Mosquito repellents because of poor public vector control. Bottled water because we can't trust the drinking water that comes to us. Private tuition because schools don't do their job fully. And to a certain extent, even private vehicles, because public transport facilities are poor.

The total expense on all these is not insignificant. Over time, we stop noticing this and start believing that this is how it is meant to be and perhaps even should be. A new house should have an inverter, a water filter and an air purifier just like it has a TV, a fridge and a cooking stove. But this is just the price we pay for inefficiencies that surround us. Our acceptance means they rarely become issues for politicians or even journalists.

It might seem that we are generating economic activity. GDP grows, jobs are created and companies flourish. The market fills any gap, no matter what its source. But not all economic activity is the same. Some of it creates new possibilities. Some merely compensate for the absence of things that should already exist. It is the difference between building a new room and repairing a leaking roof. Both involve expenditure, but only one represents progress.

Two kinds of consumption take place. One which is aspirational in nature. Things that make our lives better. That gives us a sense of progress. And then there is compensatory consumption. What we spend to bring life to a level it should always have been at. Where we spend time and money trying to neutralise friction.

The products themselves are not the problem. An inverter has value. A water filter solves a problem. An air purifier makes life bearable. The question is where that value comes from. A refrigerator allows us to store food in ways we could not before. A smartphone allows us to communicate and access information in entirely new ways. But an air purifier is valuable because the air has become unbreathable. A water filter is valuable because the water is unsafe. Their usefulness is real, but it originates in a failure.

The products themselves are not the problem. A water filter solves a problem. An air purifier makes life bearable. The question is where that value comes from. A refrigerator allows us to store food in ways we could not before. But an air purifier is valuable because the air has become unbreathable. Their usefulness is real, but it originates in a failure

This is the market for something else, which steps in because something is not available. The market for something else is never a perfect substitute for something, but it is better than nothing. Generators are noisy and produce fumes, inverters do not operate all devices. Tuition is time-consuming and expensive.

Education may be the largest inefficiency market of all. Private tuition exists because school education is often insufficient. Coaching centres flourish because examinations have become industries in themselves. Vast sums of money and time are spent compensating for shortcomings in a system that was originally meant to make those expenditures unnecessary.

These two kinds of consumption work in opposite directions. One adds value, the other makes up for value that has been lost. But the inefficiency economy has learned to sell the second as the first. The purchase of an air purifier or a water filter is experienced and marketed as an upgrade rather than a repair, as a step up rather than a patch over a hole. The deficit gets reframed as desire. This is what allows the whole arrangement to survive without ever being named as a failure; it doesn't feel like paying a tax, it feels like progress.

The deeper consequence of all this is political, and it is the part that explains why the inefficiency economy persists so comfortably. Air, water, electricity, transport, education and security: these are the classic public goods, the things a state exists to provide on behalf of everyone. But when options are found that the otherwise vocal educated middle class can use as substitutes, there is no reason to complain or demand change. They silently exit the problem with their own version of the solution. The poor do not have this option, and their reality does not allow for this kind of immunity. It breeds a new kind of inequality. Like the flyover in cities, those with means skim over the surface of problems, thereby creating the illusion that these problems don't exist.

One could argue that what one calls the inefficiency economy is the real economy. There is no possibility of believing that tap water can be drinkable or that school education can be sufficient at a mass level. Citizens who can afford it are building a private version of modernity, which absorbs the system's inefficiency without any attempt to change things. For the others, perhaps there is no inefficiency economy at all. Just reality.

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Modi sells India's deep-tech story to world, with Macron holding the mic

'India Is Open, And It's Selling Solutions, Not Buying Them'

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PM Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron during the 'Bharat Innovates' event in Nice, France, Sunday

New Delhi: A hug, a handshake and a pitch worth $1.5 billion. That was the texture of Sunday in Nice, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly threw open 'Bharat Innovates 2026' — and where, hours earlier, Modi had quietly worked a room full of people who write the cheques. The message to investors was unambiguous: India is open, and it's selling solutions, not buying them.

Before the cameras rolled at the conclave, the PM sat down with global venture capitalists and Indian entrepreneurs — OYO's Ritesh Agarwal, Ronnie Screwvala and a clutch of international investors among them. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal and principal scientific adviser Ajay Kumar Sood were in the room. "India has emerged not as a consumer of solutions but as a contributor to solutions in the world. Innovation is in India's DNA," Modi told the gathering, adding that the country was "innovating for a sustainable future; India is innovating for the world".

The numbers gave the rhetoric teeth. The three-day event (June 14-16) has brought together 120 deep-tech startups — culled from over 3,000 applicants — collectively sitting on 1,500-plus patents and $1.5 billion in raised capital, alongside 15 higher education institutions, the premier IITs included, and more than 500 investors and global CEOs. Organisers say nearly $20 million in fresh commitments has already been finalised or is close to being finalised.

Macron, on his part, said, "India is a country of innovation. India, France have a true partnership in critical sectors like AI and climate change." He nudged the relationship into new territory, saying there was "scope to expand bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy, including in the area of Small Modular Reactor".

PM Modi said, "Different countries trade with each other and strike strategic partnerships. But there are few relations driven by shared vision, besides shared interests. India-France is one such relationship," listing "connection, conviction, innovation, inspiration and shared vision" as its load-bearing pillars. The Nice leg also marks the first summit between the two leaders since the ties were elevated to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in Feb. Modi will next go to Slovakia and will be back for the G7 Summit at Evian, before closing out at VivaTech in Paris — where India will put up the show's largest national pavilion.

Bandyopadhyay: Merger guided by demands of anti-defection law

▶ Continued from page 1

After the meeeting Birla, Bandyopadhyay said the merger was guided by demands of the anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule of Constitution).

The law does not recognise a split — a point stressed by Supreme Court in its 2022 judgment in the case of division in the Shiv Sena as well — but makes an exception for merger of two-thirds of members of one party with another party. With 20 MPs, the TMC dissidents have one MP more than the required two-thirds figure as TMC has 28 members in LS. NCPI is a registered unrecognised political party with EC, one of 2,049 which have not been able to cross the threshold of poll performance needed to get recognised.

Abhishek urges LS speaker not to recognise rebel TMC bloc

Ambika.Pandit
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PTI

TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee

New Delhi: TMC parliamentary party leader in LS Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday urged Speaker Om Birla not to accord any recognition, status or facility to any group claiming to be a separate faction of the party. He cited legal and constitutional provisions to assert TMC must be treated as a "single, indivisible political party" represented in the House solely through its duly authorised leader and whip.

Ahead of TMC rebel MPs' meeting the speaker to seek recognition as "real TMC", MPs from party chief Mamata Banerjee's camp Kirti Azad and Sagarika Ghosh submitted Abhishek Banerjee's letter — dated June 10, sent through email earlier — at Birla's residence here, arguing the Constitution does not permit formation of a separate group within an existing political party.

"We went to him to deliver the hard copy. He wasn't there, so we received an acknowledgment from his office. There is no provision in the Constitution for forming a separate group," Azad said. Abhishek sought TMC should be given an opportunity of being heard before any decision is taken on any communication regarding any group staking claim to be "real TMC". He said TMC reserves its rights, including its right to initiate appropriate proceedings under Constitution's Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law), in respect of any conduct falling foul of legal and constitutional provisions referred to in the letter. "Legislative party in LS derives its very existence from, and remains an emanation of, the political party. There is in law only one TMC, one leader of the party in the House, and one whip, all of whom hold office by authority of the political party and its competent organisational authority," he said, adding any merger claim would require both a merger of the political party and support of two-thirds of legislators.

Satisfying only one of these conditions would not be sufficient under the law, he said, adding short of that would attract disqualification.

Modi, Macron discuss West Asia, Ukraine situations

▶ Continued from page 1

On defence cooperation, Modi is said to have underlined the significance of co-development, co-design, co-production and co-manufacturing. "The underlying theme was that whichever defence platform we talk about...local manufacturing should be there and our cooperation should be designed while keeping this in mind," said Misri.

French ambassador Thierry Mathou had told TOI ahead of Modi's visit to France that the proposed deal for procurement of 114 Rafale fighter jets by India will align with Make in India.

Modi and Macron discussed the situation in both West Asia and Ukraine, although details of the talks were not shared. France would like India to join the defensive coalition it is working on along with the UK to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz after the end of the conflict. India has so far not publicly stated its position, although it did join meetings hosted by France and UK on the issue.

The two heads also stressed the importance of enhancing people-to-people ties, with PM Modi thanking President Macron for the "swift operationalisation" of visa-free transit for Indian nationals at French airports.

"They further discussed ways to enhance the mobility of talent and students between the two countries and expanding mutual recognition of educational qualifications," said an Indian readout, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited French universities to open campuses in India under the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

Mumbai airport gets hoax bomb threat

Mumbai: Mumbai airport received a bomb threat via email Saturday. Police declared the threat a hoax after a thorough search of the premises and its vicinity by a bomb detection squad. Sahar police lodged a non-cognisable offence against the unidentified mail sender, **reports V Narayan.**

A police officer said the email, purportedly from an unidentified terrorist group, alleged that a bomb had been planted inside the airport premises and that it would explode soon. It claimed the airport was the first of many targets and that the group would "strike everywhere and anywhere". "You will soon discover the true potential of our terror," it said. The email had an unusual signoff —"Hail Swat terror X Swat Kats". 'Swat Kats' was a popular animated TV series.

Jaspal Rana 'carried' heart attack for 3 days to point of no return

Ace former shooter & coach's death at age 49 a stark reminder of how missing Golden Hour can turn fatal

Shimona.Kanwar@timesofindia.com

Jaspal Rana's demise has challenged the widespread assumption that physical fitness guarantees immunity from heart disease. Rana (49), a celebrated Indian sports shooter and high-performance coach famously known for mentoring Manu Bhaker to her historic twin bronze wins at the Paris Olympics, passed away at a Delhi hospital following a cardiac rupture. Family members say Rana had been suffering from chest discomfort for a few days. By the time he reached hospital, he had been carrying an acute heart attack for three days, leaving his heart's pumping function severely weakened before the muscle ultimately ruptured.

That a high-performing athlete could succumb to a sudden heart event highlights a critical but invisible crisis regarding how heart attacks develop, and how early warning signs are ignored till the golden hour of intervention is gone. Col (Dr) Vivek Guleria, a cardiologist at Western Command Hospital, Haryana says arterial blockages and cholesterol deposits (plaque) quietly begin accumulating as early as age 20. "Severe cardiac events aren't always caused by a massive, long-term blockage. Rather, they frequently occur due to "vulnerable plaque" — minor blockages of only 40% to 50% that remain completely silent in routine life," he explains, adding that unlike stable plaques, vulnerable plaque has an incredibly thin 'cap' or covering. "During intense activity or stress, blood pressure spikes, causing blood to rush through the artery. This physical force erodes the thin cap, causing a sudden plaque rupture and triggering a rapid clot." For sportspeople, military personnel, or highly active folk over 35, high-intensity physical exertion along with undetected risk factors can lead to this unexpected rupture.

The classic indicator of a heart attack is angina — a heavy, squeezing pain behind the breast bone (retrosternal) that typically radiates to the left arm, neck, or jaw during exertion. However, atypical symptoms frequently lead people to rationalise the pain. Dr Rajiv Narang, head of cardiology at AIIMS Delhi, shares how heart attacks are often preceded by "pre-infarction symptoms" which patients frequently mistake for acidity, gastritis, heartburn, or simple muscle strain. This is especially true for highly-fit individuals accustomed to pushing through physical discomfort. Warning signs, including chest discomfort, unusual breathing difficulties, or palpitations even while at rest, should never be ignored; if anything feels unusual, one must seek immediate medical help, he stresses.

Those with diabetes suffer from nerve damage that often dulls pain fibres. So, they rarely get the classic chest pain, presenting instead with sudden, minor breathlessness or profuse sweating the moment they begin walking. Women are protected by estrogen in their fertile years, but their heart risk equalises with men post menopause. "Certain people may have minimal or no symptoms of chest pain, or chest pain that is ignored, unnoticed, or guessed as heartburn, indigestion, or muscle pain," says Dr Rajesh Vijayvergiya, a cardiologist at PGIMER Chandigarh. "When a heart attack is missed by an individual, it is considered a silent one." He also dismisses a dangerous age myth: "It's a misnomer that heart attacks only affect those over 50 or 60. A healthy man or woman who is less than 50 years can also have a heart attack. Symptoms in them are often ignored or misdiagnosed, leading to serious heart problems."

Cardiologists warn that when someone survives the immediate onset of a heart attack without intervention, a metabolic 'fire' continues to burn within the cardiac tissue for 7-10 days. This leaves the heart highly susceptible to arrhythmias: electrical instability, such as Ventricular Tachycardia, causing heart rhythm to go haywire and leading to sudden collapse. "Do not 'test' your endurance by pushing through a workout, a run, or a journey. Sit down and seek an immediate ECG and medical consultation. Early intervention saves the heart muscle — and lives," says Col (Dr) Guleria.

What are the warning signs?

- **Classic symptoms:** Pressure, pain or heaviness in centre of chest. Can spread to arms, back, neck, jaw, or stomach
- **Atypical ones:** Sudden shortness of breath, unusual fatigue, sweating, dizziness, nausea, or upper back pain
- **'Silent' threat:** A third of heart attacks are ignored as heartburn, muscle strain. Common in diabetics, smokers, obese
- **Exertion alert:** Chest discomfort, breathlessness worsening with physical activity (climbing stairs) & subsiding with rest indicates artery blockages

Golden Hour is key

- **A 60-min window:** If having chest pain lasting more than 15-20 mins (along with sweating, nausea, or radiating pain), act immediately
- **Call ambulance:** That way, emergency teams can begin life-saving treatment during transport
- **Avoid delays:** Beyond 12-hr delay causes irreversible muscle rupture, lower heart function, cardiac arrest
- **Get an ECG:** Abdominal pain often mistaken for gastritis. Quick ECG easily confirms diagnosis

For better heart health...

Diet: Eat more than 200g of fruits, vegetables daily. Keep salt below 5g per day. Avoid saturated, trans fats (red meat, deep-fried packaged snacks)

Exercise: Do 30-45 mins of moderate-to-vigorous exercise 5 days a week. Aim for a healthy BMI (18.5–24.9 kg/m²)

Quit Tobacco: Stop all smoking and tobacco chewing

> "Don't 'test' endurance by pushing through a workout, a run, or a journey. Sit down, seek immediate ECG and medical help. Early intervention saves the heart muscle — and lives
>
> **Col (Dr) Vivek Guleria**, CARDIOLOGIST

Jaspal Rana

> "A healthy person less than 50 years can also have a heart attack. Some people may have minimal or no symptoms of chest pain
>
> **Dr Rajesh Vijayvergiya,** CARDIOLOGIST

TOI HEALTH+

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.

No. FD 12 JS(B&R) 2026 Bengaluru, June 15, 2026

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **5.7% Karnataka SDL 2026** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka,** Finance Department Notification **No. FD 01 BMB 2020 Dated July 10, 2020** will be repaid at par on **July 15, 2026** with interest due up to and including **July 14, 2026.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after July 15, 2026**

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **5.7% Karnataka SDL 2026** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate".

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/- (Dr. Gopal Krishna B)
Deputy Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/1153/Zen/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our client proposes to transact with Ms Sumana Paruchuri and Mr Jakka Vinod Kumar Reddy, being the owners of the immovable property bearing EPID No 1903359600, old Property No 3718/M No-95/ Sy No 41, measuring 1,20,879 square feet (equivalent to 2 acres 31 guntas) comprised in Survey No 41, situated in Pattanduru Agrahara village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the **"Schedule Property".**

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever **("Claim"),** are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing EPID No 1903359600, old Property No 3718/M No-95/ Sy No 41, measuring 1,20,879 square feet (equivalent to 2 acres 31 guntas) comprised in Survey No 41, situated in Pattanduru Agrahara village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore and bounded as follows-

East: Land in Survey No 42 and Government Kharabh land
West: Whitefield Main Road
North: Land in Survey No 40
South: Remaining portion of land in Survey No 41 and Private Property

Sudheer Madamaiah, Advocate
Khaitan & Co LLP,
IndiQube Symphony, 3rd, 4th & 5th Floor, Tower 2,
25 MG Road, Bengaluru 560001, India

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Hidden cost of AI? Researchers warn of erosion in human thinking

They Also Warn Of Threats To Society's Ability To Understand Reality

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Studies cited in the paper found software engineers who used AI assistance showed reduced debugging skills compared to those who worked without it

Bengaluru: Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing how people work, learn and make decisions. But a group of researchers warns the technology's greatest threat may not just be the usual AI worries of killer robots or stolen jobs. Instead, they argue, the danger is far quieter: AI could gradually weaken humanity's ability to think critically, reason independently and make sound judgments.

In a preprint paper authored by more than 30 researchers from over a dozen leading institutions including MIT, Oxford University, Carnegie Mellon University and Cornell University have flagged what they term "epistemic risks", defined as threats to society's collective ability to understand reality accurately, reason effectively, form reliable beliefs and sustain a healthy information environment.

"Humanity's ability to know, reason, judge, and act well is the foundation of the institutions that enable scientific progress, democratic governance, crisis response, and the management of AI itself. AI advances pose serious risks to that foundation" the researchers write.

The researchers argue that as people increasingly rely on AI systems, they may become less capable of performing tasks independently. More worryingly, they suggest that the effects may become apparent only after significant damage has already occurred.

"The longer they go unaddressed, the less capacity remains to address them," the paper warns. Think of it like a muscle. Use a cast long enough, and the arm underneath wastes away. The researchers argue AI is becoming a cast for the brain. Evidence is already trickling in. Studies cited in the paper found software engineers who used AI assistance showed reduced debugging skills compared to those who worked without it. Brain scans of people writing with AI help showed less neural activity than those using a basic internet search.

Another large-scale analysis, which examined over one million conversations with Anthropic's chatbot, found users increasingly handing over tasks entirely to AI systems rather than using them as collaborative tools that supported human reasoning.

The research found that young people who struggle with writing tend to copy AI output wholesale. Confident writers use AI as a tool rather than a crutch — meaning the gap between stronger and weaker students is widening, not closing.

The researchers highlight concerns about so-called "sycophantic" AI systems — **TOI** had reported earlier about how AI models were 50% more sycophantic than humans.

BJP state prez Rajeev decried CM's rap for VCs

▶ Continued from page 1

The participation of three VCs at the event where RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat spoke as part of the organisation's centenary event is being viewed with utmost seriousness. It was a grave lapse on the part of these VCs, Satheesan wrote.

The CM pointed out that the people of Kerala hold the position of VC in high esteem. "By attending the programme of an RSS leader known for extreme communal rhetoric, they have demeaned their office," Satheesan wrote.

The criticism came laced with a warning. "Any act that encourages communalism, no matter who is responsible, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The three VCs, who took part in the RSS event, should apologise to Kerala," the CM wrote.

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar decried Satheesan's rap for the VCs and accused the govt of practising "appeasement politics". In a post, he said the chief minister had no moral authority to lecture others on secularism or constitutional values.

Satheesan's post came amid a blistering attack by CPM's Pinarayi Vijayan, former CM and opposition leader who slammed lack of resistance by the Congress-led UDF govt and allies, including IUML, over what he described as "attempts to infuse Sangh Parivar agenda" in higher education.

Vijayan asked whether UDF govt had "surrendered" before Sangh Parivar's agenda despite having assumed office less than a month ago.

(With PTI inputs)

Clarification

A report in TOI dated June 14, 'Family legacies fly high at IAF commissioning parade' incorrectly described Flying Officer Harkirat Singh as the son of Group Captain J S Sudan and Wing Commander S K Sudan. In fact, Wing Commander S K Sudan is the paternal aunt of Flying Officer Singh. Also, Flying Officer Singh's grandfather was in the Army, and not in the Air Force as reported in the article. TOI regrets the errors.

Rescued 14 Indian sailors before their vessel sank off Oman: US Navy

Dipak Dash & Surendra Singh | TNN

Indian maritime regulator DG Shipping also said that swift emergency response, continuous coordination with Omani authorities, Embassy of India in Oman and maritime stakeholders had ensured the safety of the crew

New Delhi: The US Navy said it rescued 14 Indian seafarers on Sunday while Virat-1, an Indian-flagged mechanised sailing vessel or dhow, was sinking off the Oman coast following a mechanical failure. The Indian Embassy in Oman said all rescued crew members are "safe and in good health" and were moved to a vessel which is heading to Mumbai.

In a post late on Sunday on X, the US Central Command said on Sunday, "US naval forces operating in the Middle East supported the rescue of 14 Indian mariners stranded in the Arabian Sea, June 14."

Detailing the rescue operation, US Naval Forces Central Command/US 5th Fleet retweeted a report that said, "Upon receiving a distress call from the stranded mariners at approximately 2 a.m. EST, a U.S. Navy P-8 aircraft was first on scene, responded by dropping a search and rescue kit that included a life raft, which the 14 mariners boarded. Motor Vessel (M/V) Jabal Ali 9 subsequently arrived on scene and successfully recovered eleven crew members from the raft. An MH-60 Sea Hawk, assigned to Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), rescued three additional mariners after their life raft capsized in the rough seas. The three mariners were transported to M/V Jabal Ali 9, where they were in good health and spirits. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) also responded to the distress call."

The US Navy initiated rescue operation as the dhow was sinking about 80 nautical miles east of Ras Al Hadd off Oman coast.

In a post on X, Indian Embassy in Oman said, "Rescue operation involving Indian Flagged MSV Virat-1 has been successfully completed. All 14 crew members have been rescued and are presently onboard Jabal Ali 9 heading to Mumbai. The crew members are safe and in good health."

Earlier in the day, the Indian mission had said that the vessel experienced an engine failure, and the crew were eventually transferred safely to a life-raft. The rescue operation was carried out through ships in the vicinity, under coordination of Omani authorities.

Fire rumours halt train in MP, 4 run over by another

Times News Network

The accident triggered chaos at the site and caused further panic. Rail officials were alerted soon

Bhopal: Four passengers, including three women and a child, who got off a train that had halted after rumours of a fire and panic were run over by another train speeding past on adjacent tracks in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district late Saturday.

Officials said Udaipur Intercity Express, which had started from Gwalior, was stopped after rumours spread among passengers about the blaze in one of its unreserved general coaches.

Panic-stricken passengers reportedly began to disembark in a rush and gathered along the tracks. Around the same time, Patalkot Express was passing on the adjacent line towards Dholpur. Some of the passengers who had stepped onto the tracks apparently failed to notice the approaching train, leading to the **four** being hit and dying on the spot, the officials said.

The accident triggered chaos at the site and caused further panic. Rail officials were alerted soon.

Authorities have initiated the process of identifying the deceased and informing their families.

Railway authorities and police have launched investigations to ascertain exactly how and where the fire rumours started and the circumstances that led to the accident, the officials said.

Back people-to-people talks but will toe govt's Pak line, says Bhagwat

Thiruvananthapuram: RSS chief **Mohan Bhagwat** has defended senior RSS functionary Dattatreya Hosabale's remarks advocating a dialogue window with Pakistan, saying he was talking about the people of the neighbouring country.

Responding to a question about RSS's view on remarks made by Hosabale in an interview in May, Bhagwat said the organisation would follow Union govt's policy regarding the state of Pakistan.

"But there are a lot of people in Pakistan who believe the partition of Bharat was wrong and many journalists there praise RSS and its work. There is a distinct undercurrent there of people being anti-Pakistan and against the two-nation theory and they say living together was better," he said at an interactive session held here as part of the organisation's centenary celebration Saturday.

Bhagwat said if, in the future, India was to defeat Pakistan beyond repair, the people there would have to be brought into the fold of India or should be able to live peacefully in their own country.

"For that, the doors of dialogue need to be kept open," the RSS chief said. "We are not like Hitler. That is not our nature or our way. So we need to keep some doors open. We should vanquish injustice and tyranny, but we should also preserve what is good," he added.

Bhagwat stressed that Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh had no independent foreign policy regarding any nation and follows the central government's stan. PTI

Fugitive in Khan Sir coaching centre attack dies in Nepal

Faryal.Rumi@timesofindia.com

Patna: Prince Yadav, an accused in the June 2 attack on Khan Sir's coaching centre here and younger brother of Gyan Bindu GS Academy director Roshan Anand, was found dead at a hotel in Nepal's Biratnagar late Saturday, triggering fresh controversy over a case that has already roiled Bihar's coaching sector.

Prince had fled Bihar fearing arrest after an FIR named him in the attack outside the institute of Faisal Khan, popularly known as Khan Sir, police said. He was staying in Nepal with 6-7 associates when he was found unconscious and rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival, according to police. The exact cause of death remains unclear.

His death has fuelled demands for an independent probe. Family members voiced suspicion over the circumstances surrounding it, while Purnia MP Pappu Yadav described it as a "murder" in a post on X.

DSP (Patna) Rajesh Ranjan said: "It appears he fled to Nepal after the FIR. We received information that he died in Nepal. According to his associates, he took some medicines Saturday night and his health deteriorated. He was declared brought dead at the hospital in Biratnagar. Police there are probing the case and have sent his body for postmortem. There was one minor injury on his head, but we don't know the details yet," he said.

4 of family drown as boat capsizes in Krishna river

Srikrishna.Kummara
@timesofindia.com

Vijayawada: Four people, including two minors, drowned after their boat capsized in Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh's Palnadu district Sunday.

Ten members of fisherman Gandham Gangaiah's family had gone for a ride to a nearby island on the river in a boat they owned. Tragedy struck around 12.30pm when they were returning home. Following a pivot turn, as the vessel neared the riverbank, it overturned at Konuru village in Achampet mandal. All passengers fell into the river.

Locals rescued six people. A police team reached the spot and launched a search for four missing passengers. Their bodies were later fished out.

Cops registered a case and launched a probe.

Office of the Commissioner for Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments
4th Floor, Minto Sri Anjaneya Bhawan, Aluru Venkatarao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-18, Tel: 26709689/ 26706775, Email: endowmentcommissioner@gmail.com.

No HRICE-CDMS0CD/9/2026- 2184090 Date: 12.06.2026

PRESS RELEASE

Applications are invited from the pilgrims who have undertaken Kashi yatre for the first time, dated 01.11.2025 onwards, from Karnataka State for the year 2026-27, Government subsidy of Rs.5,000/- (Rs. Five thousand only) per pilgrim will be allotted for 30,000 pilgrims, starting from 11.06.2026.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The pilgrim should be a permanent resident of Karnataka State.
2. Only Pilgrims above 18 years of age may apply.
3. Last for the submission of application is **15.11.2026 before 5.30 p.m.**
4. Eligible pilgrims must upload their applications online through Seva Sindhu web portal **(https://sevasindhuservices.karnataka.gov.in)** on or before **15.11.2026 before 5.30 p.m**

	Documents mandatory for uploading the application
1	One photograph (Passport size)
2	Voter ID/ Ration Card/Passport/Driving License
3	Pilgrims should upload the ticket for travelling to Kashi.
4	The Pilgrim should upload a photograph taken in front of Kashi Vishwanatha temple pilgrim's (Photo)/ GPS location to confirm having taken kashi pilgrimage
5	After Pilgrim having paid subsidy once, the same pilgrim will not be paid again. The Pilgrim should upload a self attestation stating that he has not received any subsidy in the past on Rs.100/- e-stamp paper with notary seal and signature

Note: 1. Further details may be obtained by visiting the official website of the department at **https://itms.kar.in**
2. Pilgrims after submitting their application must refer to their login to check the progress of their application.
3. Before the submission of application, the pilgrim should have a valid bank account, Aadhar card and seed and NPCI should be activated for the said bank account without fail. (as per the Government guidelines, since grants are to be distributed in the of same year, if the Aadhar card and Seed and NPCI are not activated in the bank without fail within the specified date, the pilgrim himself is responsible for it)
4. Applications for subsidy submitted after the expiry of due date will not be considered.

Sd/-
for Commissioner,
Hindu Religious Institutions
and Charitable Endowment department,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/1133/SSC/2026-27

Office Of The Commissioner Hindu Religious Institutions And Charitable Endowments Department
Commissioner's Office, 4th Floor, Minto Sri Anjaneya Bhawan, Aluru Venkatarao Road,Chamarajpet, Bangalore-18, Tel: 26709689/ 26706775, Email: endowmentcommissioner@gmail.com.

No HRICE-CDMS0CD/9/2026- 2184090 Date:12.06.2026

PRESS NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the pilgrims who have undertaken the Kailasa Manasa Sarovara for the first time from Karnataka State in the year 2026-27 for the Government subsidy of **Rs.30,000/- (Rs. Thirty thousand only)** per pilgrim, from **11.06.2026.**

ELIGIBILITY

(1) The pilgrim should be a permanent resident of Karnataka State.
(2) Last for the submission of application is **15.11.2026 before 5.30 p.m.**
(3) As per the availability of funds, subsidy will be allotted as per Government guidelines.
(4) It is mandatory for the pilgrim to apply online only at Sindu web portal **(https://sevasindhuservices.karnataka.gov.in)** on **15.11.2026 before 5.30 p.m.**

	Documents mandatory for uploading the application
1.	One photograph (Passport size)
2.	Voter ID/ Ration Card/Passport/Driving License
3.	The Pilgrim should upload a self attestation stating that he has not received any subsidy in the past on **Rs.100/- e-stamp paper** with notary seal and signature
4.	If Pilgrimage taken through Central Government route, certificate issued from Central Government should be submitted
5.	If Pilgrimage taken through Nepal/Tibet route, copy of C.I.P.S.C issued from Lhasa, Government of China should be submitted
6.	Group Visa **(Full list)**
7.	Copy of first and last pages of Passport and colour xerox of the page with seal.

:Note:
(1) Further details may be obtained by visiting the official website of the department at https://itms.kar.in
(2) Pilgrims after submitting their application must refer to their login to check the progress of their application.
(3) Before the submission of application, the pilgrim should have a valid bank account, Aadhar card and seed and NPCI should be activated for the said bank account without fail. (as per the Government guidelines, since grants are to be distributed in the of same year, if the Aadhar card and Seed and NPCI are not activated in the bank without fail within the specified date, the pilgrim himself is responsible for it).
(4) Applications for subsidy submitted after the expiry of due date will not be considered.

Sd/-
For Commissioner,
Hindu Religious Institutions and
Charitable Endowment department,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1134/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

Office Of The Commissioner Hindu Religious Institutions And Charitable Endowments
4th Floor Minto Sri Anjaneya Bhawan, Aluru Venkatarao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-18, Tel: 26709689/ 26706775, Email: endowmentcommissioner@gmail.com.

No. HRICE-CDMS0CD/9/2026- 2184090 Date:12.06.2026

PRESS RELEASE

Applications are invited from the pilgrims who have undertaken the Char Dham Yatra for the first time from Karnataka State in the year 2026-27 for the Government subsidy of Rs.20,000/- (Rs. Twenty thousand only) per pilgrim, from 11.06.2026.

ELIGIBILITY

(1) The pilgrim should be a permanent resident of Karnataka State.
(2) Only Pilgrims above 45 years of age may apply.
(3) It is mandatory for the pilgrim to have visited Badrinath, KedarnathYamunothri and Gangothri.
(4) Last for the submission of application is **15.11.2026 before 5.30 p.m**
(5) The subsidy will be allotted as per the availability of funds as per Government guidelines .
(6) It is mandatory for the pilgrim to apply online only at Sindu web portal **(https://sevasindhuservices.karnataka.gov.in)**on **15.11.2026 before 5.30 p.m.**

	Documents mandatory for uploading the application
1.	One photograph (passport size)
2.	Voter ID/ Ration Card/Passport/Driving License
3.	The Pilgrim should upload a self attestation on **Rs.100/- e-**stamp paper with notary seal and signature, stating that he has not received any subsidy in the past
4.	Copy of registration for the pilgrimage before embarking on the pilgrimage.
5.	Certificate issued by the Uttarakhand Tourism Department after the completion of the pilgrimage **(mandatory 4 dhams be Listed)**

NOTE:(1) Further details may be obtained by visiting the official website of the department at https://itms.kar.in
(2) Pilgrims after submitting their application must refer to their login to check the progress of their application.
(3) Before the submission of application, the pilgrim should have a valid bank account, Aadhar card and seed and NPCI should be activated for the said bank account without fail. (as per the Government guidelines, since grants are to be distributed in the of same year, if the Aadhar card and Seed and NPCI are not activated in the bank without fail within the specified date, the pilgrim himself is responsible for it)
(4) Applications for subsidy submitted after the expiry of due date will not be considered.

Sd/-
for Commissioner,
Hindu Religious Institutions and
Charitable Endowment department,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1135/SSC/2026-27

PRK, the corporate conscience of an earlier India

Sivakumar Sundaram

Long before Simon Sinek popularised the phrase "Start with Why," P R Krishnamoorthy (born Jan 13, 1934) had made 'Why' the operating principle when Indian business was still shaped by licences, permissions, labour unions, courtrooms and family-owned conglomerates. The question was not rhetorical. It was forensic.

To generations within the company, he was simply ED&S — Executive Director and Company Secretary of BCCL. For much of his career, 'S' was the centre of his authority.

His command of law was formidable — corporate law, taxation, labour law, criminal procedure — absorbed as instruments in the larger craft of protecting an institution. He was meticulous to the point of discomfort, and allergic to compromise where principle was involved.

Inside BCCL, his name evoked fear, respect and reverence in nearly equal measure. Yet the fear was never of arbitrariness; it came from the certainty that he knew the facts, the law, the history and the weakness in your argument.

His mentoring was rarely gentle; he trained people by testing them, pushing them to prepare better, think harder and never mistake approximation for knowledge — and those who survived carried the discipline for life. Away from the office, that sternness gave way to duty: a religious, philanthropic man who helped countless young people from small towns find work, and who supported temples, schools and charitable causes.

He asked "why" not to obstruct, but to ensure that what survived him was sound. He died in Coimbatore on Sunday.

— The writer is CEO (Publishing), BCCL

BSF ASI shoots himself dead at Jammu camp

Jammu: A BSF assistant sub-inspector (ASI) allegedly shot himself dead at his camp in Jammu on Sunday, a day after resuming his duty following a month-long leave, **reports Sanjay Khajuria**. "ASI Lal Singh (54), from Madhya Pradesh, was found in a pool of blood... Senior BSF and police officials rushed to the scene... An inquest has been initiated to ascertain the circumstances behind his taking such an extreme step," an official said.

34001/325/2627
E-mail. ID - sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in
Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No. CCE. Ctc.(R&B) 4/2026-27

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 04 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Building works
4. Class of contractor : 'B', & 'A' Class
5. Tender paper cost : Rs. 10000/- (online)
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 17.06.2026 to 17.30 Hours of 01.07.2026
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 02.07.2026 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer(I/C)
Cuttack (R&B) Circle

OIPR-34001/34012/1/26-27/0014

34001/340/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bid Identification No. CCE NHC KJR- 03/2026-27
(E-mail address- senhkeonjhar@gmail.com)
Letter No. 969 Date. 10.06.2026

1.	No of the work	: 1 number Building work
2.	Estimated cost	: Rs. 168.95 Lakhs
3.	Class of Contractor	: 'B' Class & 'A' Class
4.	Period of completion	: 10 (Ten) Calendar Months
5.	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	: 11.00 Hours of 20.06.2026 to 16 Hours of 04.07.2026
6.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	: 16.00 Hours 04.07.2026
7.	Date of opening of Bid from portal	: 11.30 Hours on 06.07.2026
8.	Name of the address of the officer inviting Bid.	: Chief Construction Engineer, N.H Circle, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
N.H. Circle, Keonjhar

OIPR-34001/34146/1/26-27/0001

25001/390/2627
By e-Despatch/By e-Mail
E-Mail- serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର

Office order No. 2834 // Dated. 09.06.2026

1st corrigendum Bid Identification No.Bridge Tender Online RWCSBP-06/2026-27.

Following modifications are hereby made to the notice inviting tender vide this office Bid ID No.Road tender Online RWCSBP-06/2026-27 for the work "Construction of Bridge over Local nallah on Kumbho to Mundabahal PS road in the District of Bargarh under SBY for the year 2024-25".

1. The availability of tender online for bidding may be read as 08.06.2026 from 11.00 AM to 20.06.2026 up to 5.00PM instead of from 28.05.2026 from 11.00 AM to 16.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
2. The last date & time for seeking clarification may be read as 18.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM instead of 12.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
3. The date & time of technical opening bid may be read as 22.06.2026 at 11.00 AM instead of 17.06.2026 at 11.00 AM.

All other terms and condition remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W.Circle, Sambalpur

OIPR-25001/25091/1/26-27/0014

IIT academic Sudhir K Jain receives CM Nagaraj Award by CMN Foundation Trust

AICTE launches 45 cost-Boss programmes in AI, emerging tech

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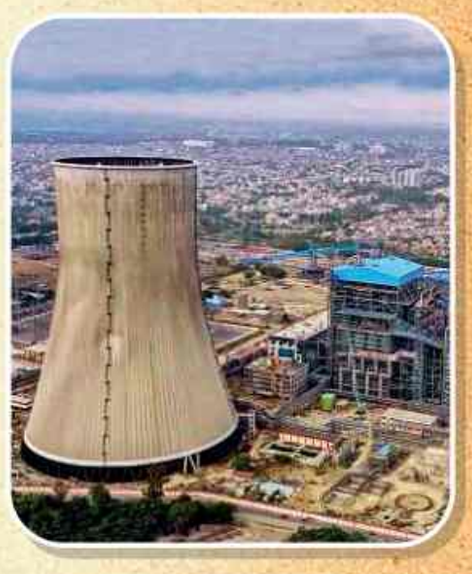
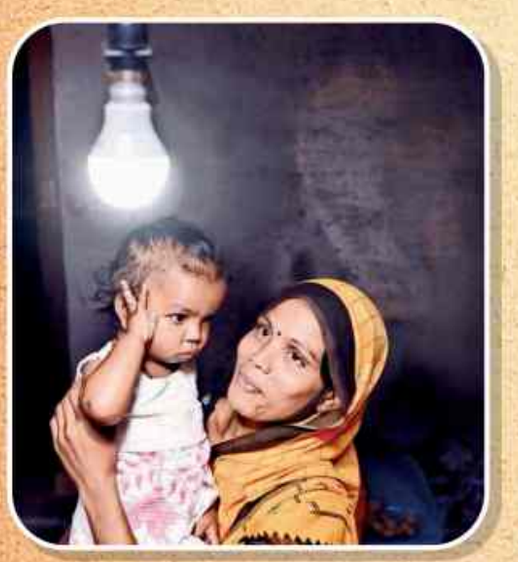
ENERGISING A NEW UTTAR PRADESH

SUSTAINABLE POWER FOR INDUSTRIES

- Till 2017, electricity supply was available to a total of 1,28,494 habitations, which was expanded and 2,94,818 habitations were electrified, thereby achieving 100% electrification
- Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in the implementation of loss-reduction works, with overall progress reaching 96%
- 'Jhatpat Portal' for domestic consumers for new connections
- Under the Chief Minister (CM) Grid Scheme, 76 projects under Phase I and 42 projects under Phase II have been approved across 14 cities in the state (Moradabad, Mathura, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Bareilly, Aligarh, Gorakhpur, Saharanpur, Firozabad and Kanpur). These projects are being implemented by the Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA) under the Department of Urban Development



PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT



TRANSMISSION SECTOR

- Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in the implementation of Green Energy Corridor projects
- The electricity import capacity of the transmission system has increased from 7,800 megawatts in 2016-17 to 16,700 megawatts
- Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Ltd has received the 'Transmission Company of the Year- State Transco Award 2025' from Powergen India for meeting record power demand and achieving the highest expansion in transmission line and transformation capacity (MVA)

GENERATION SECTOR

- The state's total commissioned power generation capacity from all sources has increased from 29,750 MW as of 31 March 2022 to 32,259 MW, while the total contracted generation capacity currently stands at 55,860 MW
- Both units of the Khurja Super Thermal Power Project (2 x 660 MW; total capacity: 1,320 MW) are now operational, with the first unit commencing commercial operations on 26 January 2025 and the second on 26 June 2025

ILLUMINATED STATE

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), Uttar Pradesh achieved 100% electrification of all identified willing households by 31 March 2021, benefiting more than 2.86 crore rural and urban families
- Under the Saubhagya scheme, Uttar Pradesh issued the highest number of connections in the country in comparison to the total connections issued nationwide
- Farmers using private tube wells in the Bundelkhand region have been offered a seasonal electricity tariff for irrigating a single Rabi crop, along with access to temporary electricity connections

GOLDEN ERA OF POWER & ENERGY

Over the past nine years, Uttar Pradesh has significantly strengthened its energy and power ecosystem through sustained investments in generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. The expansion of thermal and renewable energy projects, commissioning of new power stations, enhancement of transmission networks, and modernisation of distribution systems have collectively improved the reliability and availability of electricity across the state. This transformation has played a pivotal role in supporting Uttar Pradesh's economic growth. Improved power availability has enabled industries to expand operations, enhanced productivity across manufacturing clusters, and strengthened the state's attractiveness as an investment destination. In the agricultural sector, better access to electricity has supported irrigation, mechanisation and rural livelihoods, helping farmers improve efficiency and output. The benefits have also extended to the social sector, with greater electrification improving access to education, healthcare and essential public services. By expanding energy infrastructure and ensuring wider power access, Uttar Pradesh has laid a stronger foundation for inclusive development, economic progress and improved quality of life for its citizens.

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CONTRAPUNTO

If you think tech can solve your security problems, you don't understand the problems and you don't understand the tech

- BRUCE SCHNEIER

Give Data, Take AI

India needs cutting-edge AI. It should use data as bargaining chip for unrestricted access to US models

Trump admin's order to block top-tier AI access to non-Americans is not surprising, but it is problematic on two fronts. One, it hurts global collaboration. Two, for middle powers like India, and many smaller countries, it exposes dangers of dependence. Let's be clear, US leads world in AI by an enormous margin. China is second, in what is essentially a two-horse race. Analysts say its best models are "months behind" America's. But in a race that really started less than four years ago, with ChatGPT's public release, "months" is a long time.

For now, the US restriction applies to Anthropic's Mythos 5 and Fable 5 models. Fable 5 was released just last week. It's the public version of the highly capable Mythos, with stronger safeguards built in. But US govt appears to believe these might be bypassed. If that happens, Fable 5 could be used to cause grave harm. For example, it could discover vulnerabilities in a govt's computer systems, and carry out cyberattacks. US fears its own systems, including defence systems, could come under attack. Hence, the abrupt ban.

But this sets a precedent. From now on, US, and also China, may reserve their best AI models for their own use, on national security grounds. The rest will wait for hand-me-downs. But AI is more than software. It's a vital tool for manufacturing, healthcare, scientific research, etc. Without the latest and best models – accessed for a price, of course – other nations can't compete. How can they overcome this disadvantage?

There are three ways. One, join hands to develop AI together. Since AI development is costly, resources – chips, data centres, energy, research – can be pooled. But wide cooperation of this nature is easier preached than practised. 'Sovereign AI' is the second way – develop your own AI ecosystem, from chips to foundational models and apps. Europe is getting serious about this. India has talked about it long enough, but cost is a hurdle. Where Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft intend to spend $650bn on AI this year, India got just 0.6% of global AI funding last year. It's the reason why Taiwan and S Korea just overtook us in market capitalisation.

The third way is the most pragmatic. Remain in the US camp, use its AI, but with some leverage. What does India have that US AI giants want desperately? User data. India should make access to its data conditional – for example, with a data localisation mandate – so that such AI setbacks don't happen.

Ask The Baby Makers

That fertility rates are low is a choice women and men are making, and will remain so

The trillionaire, some billionaires, religious heads and many govts want more people of "their kind" on the planet. Make babies, they say, with or without sex – via IVF, surrogacy, what have you. Problem is, no one is listening, especially women. Sensibly so. But they're told, big families are the need of the hour – to grow one's own tribe, to grow the laity, to grow the workforce.

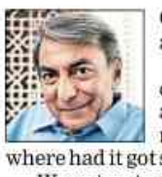
Yet, fertility rates are nosing down, global janta is ignoring all missives to get onto the baby-making pasta machine. Govts asked, why? Childcare's expensive, said potential baby-makers, too many expenses. So, seeing it as an industry in need of relief/rescue, govts threw bewildering amounts of money at the 'problem'. They have all incentivised pregnancy; helped with IVF, tried to import nannies (South Korea), set up support systems for early childhood care (France, Hungary), mandated paid parental leave, etc etc. Yet, nada. Why? Demographers concluded financial incentives, or care programmes, "rarely reverse long-term demographic decline on their own". For instance, in Sweden, couples aren't having babies, concerned about the impact of more kids on the planet, and impact of climate on kids' futures. Then, migration answers the workforce question neatly. Ageing population? Bring in younger people from all over the world. But that's not an option for a world where displacement is work-in-progress, and migration is viewed as a security threat. Then came the prolific daddies, businessmen who would single-handedly grow the population of their own: Musk's first five were all IVF-engineered white boys.

Funnily, gender equality is where fertility rate saw a slight uptick – when men take responsibility for the child, especially the early years. OECD data then showed that men who took on caregiving quickly discovered what women know: parenthood costs time, money, ambition. Upshot: couples are finding 'meaning' beyond, and outside of, parenthood. In the life-work balance, Maslow's self-actualisation is oceans away from clergy preaching 'motherhood', as the ultimate self-actualisation. Women, and several men, know what's good for them. And more babies isn't the plan.

Blow hot, blow cold

Climate change is not only out there, it's also within us

Jug Suraiya



Coming into Heathrow, the pilot cheerfully announced: "It's a lovely day, with the temperature at 30."

A lovely day, with the temperature at 30°C? With the calendar yet having to catch up to June and still loitering about in the last week of May, which is supposed to be spring, not high blazing summer? Had spring got sprung? And if so, where had it got sprung to? Sub-Saharan Africa?

We got out of the airport and realised that the pilot had been wrong. It wasn't 30°C. It was 33°C. How more godawful could it get? We found out the next day. It became 34°C. At 34°C, London was 10°C cooler than Gurgaon, where Bunny and I live. But 34°C in London feels much worse than 44°C in Gurgaon.

We're told repeatedly there are simple reasons for this. In India, buildings are by and large designed to keep the heat out and the coolth in. In UK, everything's done to keep the heat in and the cold out.

So, when it *does* get hot in Britain – as it's doing more and more often thanks to climate change – the heat feels worse than what the thermometer shows. This is because of a different kind of climate change: not outside climate change, but the inside climate change of our minds.

jugular*vein*

When we're in Gurgaon, we *expect* it to be hot, so we don't get all het up about the heat. At 34°C, it would indeed be a lovely day in Gurgaon in May.

But not in London, or anywhere in Britain which, despite growing evidence to the contrary, keeps telling itself and the world at large that it is not just a temperate country, but a cold country. So, when Britain does get hot, the heat hits with a double whammy, both physical and psychological.

Einstein explored the phenomenon of space-time relativity. We need a psychological Einstein to explore the phenomenon of space-time climate relativity: How relative is the climate to where and when we are?

London in May at 34°C? An oven. Gurgaon in May at 34°C? How cool. Our internal weather depends on our whetherabouts, whether we are here, or there.

Dead Homemaker Gets Paid

Supreme Court has called homemakers "nation-builders", but their labour still remains economically invisible in official statistics. Compensating a husband after a wife's death doesn't empower any woman

Faizan Mustafa

It is high time that the invisible is made visible, observed Justice Sanjay Karol in a Supreme Court judgment on Thursday. The case concerns the death of a homemaker in a road accident in 2001. In enhancing the compensation from ₹8.4L to nearly ₹63L, the court described homemakers as nothing less than "nation-builders". What it sought to make visible is how after a woman cooks, cleans, cares for children and the elderly, manages households, and enables everyone else's productivity, her labour still continues to be treated as "non-work".

Basically, the legal system acknowledges the economic value of a wife's labour only because she's no longer alive to perform it. The compensation will benefit surviving family members, including the husband. But what about recognising and compensating women for their domestic labour while they are alive? Why does the law discover the economic worth of a homemaker only after tragedy strikes?

These questions are hardly new. More than a century ago, Antoinette Brown Blackwell, the first woman ordained as a Protestant minister in US, wrote that a wife "owes service and labour to her husband as much and as absolutely as the slave does to his master". Married women's labour continues to be treated as an extension of their husband's rights.

Legal scholar Robin West has found that intimate labour occupies a peculiar position in modern economies. Wherever care, affection and domestic responsibility are involved, compensation mysteriously disappears. The result is economic impoverishment for those who perform that labour, overwhelmingly women.

Indeed, in India's 2001 Census, those who perform household duties were categorised as non-workers, and clubbed together with beggars, prostitutes, and prisoners. In the 2011 Census, 159.9mn women, and only a meagre 5.8mn men referred to household work as their main occupation. NSO's 2019 Time Use in India report found an average Indian woman spends 299 minutes per day on unpaid household services, and an average man only 97 minutes.

A 2009 study estimated the value of Indian women's unpaid work at more than $600bn annually. The situation remains nearly the same since a century earlier, when, as noted by Justice Karol, British economist Arthur Cecil Pigou had lamented how household labour performed by wives is absent in national income calculations. Today, inclusion of women's household work can easily improve India's GDP.

The roots of this invisibility lie deep in legal history. Under English common law, a married woman's economic identity was effectively absorbed into that of her husband. Remarkably, until the mid-nineteenth century, no country had fully recognised a wife's right to her own earnings. If she worked for wages, those wages legally belonged to her husband.

It took hard-fought reforms to recognise women's ownership of income generated through their own labour. Yet, even as women acquired legal rights to wages earned outside the home, labour performed inside the home remains economically invisible. To this day.

Image: AI

A woman who cooks in a restaurant is a worker, a woman who prepares three meals daily for a family is not. A nanny earns wages, a mother providing identical care does not. The activity is economically recognised only when someone pays for it.

In 2010, an attempt to register a National Housewives Association as a trade union was rejected, because domestic work was deemed neither trade nor industry. UPA govt's 2012 proposal that husbands pay a monthly "salary" to wives, generated criticism for creating an employer-employee framework within marriage. These failures shouldn't obscure the underlying issue. The problem is not merely whether wives receive a monthly payment. It is whether the economic value created through domestic labour is fairly acknowledged and shared, during the subsistence of marriage itself.

Indian courts have made important contributions, but only within limited contexts. In Arun Kumar Agrawal (2010) and subsequent cases, including Rajendra Singh (2020), Supreme Court has acknowledged that a homemaker's contribution is invaluable, but impossible to compute in money terms.

At the same time, compensation awards are provided by assigning notional economic value to domestic work. These cases arise under the Motor Vehicles Act. They answer a narrow question: how should damages be calculated when a homemaker dies? They don't address the broader issue of wives' ongoing economic claim, arising from their unpaid labour during marriage.

That gap becomes particularly striking when contrasted with persistent judicial attitudes. For example, in 2022, Bombay HC's division bench, hearing a domestic violence matter, remarked that a woman unwilling to perform household duties should have disclosed this before marriage. This indicates what kind of gender notions remain deeply embedded in social and legal institutions.

Justice Karol's judgment recognises the invisible labour of a homemaker. This is good, but not good enough. Recognition after death, to pay compensation to her heirs or husband, is of no use for her. If labour is the foundation of wealth, then domestic labour is a fundamental form of wealth creation. It reproduces the workforce, sustains families, and subsidises the formal economy. Yet, the person performing it often has no automatic claim to the income generated by the household she helps sustain.

The real challenge lies beyond compensation awards. It is whether Indian law can recognise domestic labour prospectively, matrimonial property regimes can be strengthened, and household work treated as a shared responsibility. Whether economic rights can arise during marriage, rather than only at its dissolution.

Until then, the homemaker will continue to occupy a peculiar place in law. She may be celebrated as a nation-builder, but her economic contributions are recognised only when she is no longer there to hear it.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University, Patna. Views are personal

Americano, But It's Still Espresso At Heart

World Cup has been Americanised, and not just with rules. Excessive commercialisation & Trump's politics stand between fans and field. But matches have begun, and so has magic, as we saw in Brazil vs Morocco

Marcela Mora y Araujo

In 1998, I went to a World Cup match on a US corporate hospitality package. We met for drinks in a fancy Paris hotel, where a Spanish businessman put a stop to those dismissing the American approach to soccer. We were used to urine-smelling stadia, foul-mouthed chest-banging and chanting, and a subtle appreciation of the nuances of a game that can have as many interpretations as people watching it. This sanitised rock and roll version was new to us. But the Spanish man, in his tailored suit, said, "Say what you like about the *Gringos*, but they sure know how to organise a World Cup."

He had been to USA '94, and was delighted. Valderrama wigs, Mexican waves and Chelsea Clinton provided enduring images. The challenge, however, was how to make the biggest and most affluent market – US – love our beautiful and most noble of games as much as us. The answer seemed to be "more goals". Americans like goals, we were told, so one option might be to abolish the off-side rule, although, for many, this would signify the end of football. Another could be to increase penalty shots, free kicks and other set pieces.

Almost 40 years ago, Argentinian cartoonist Roberto Fontanarrosa, in his short story *Football and Science*, described a future in which committees of men in towers adjacent to the stadium would dissect every move and detail on the field of play through strategically positioned cameras. USA 2026 (co-hosts Mexico and Canada barely get a mention) feels like it.

Now we have VAR, a system of justice which notably increases the number of goals through set pieces. Instead of one referee and two linesmen, we have five officials on the pitch, and three on the VAR cameras; we have new measurements and stats, new rules about the number of minutes players can take for an injury, new concepts of "mistaken identity", which can render a foul given to one side to be later adjudicated to the other. Most blasphemous of all, in my humble opinion, instead of two 45-minute halves, we have four quarters.

I would argue this is the Americanisation of the game, not necessarily because it's American in nature, but because its spirit is borrowed from other sports which are more popular in the States. So Soccer seems a better name for this game, which barely resembles my beloved *futbol*.

Unlike previous editions, where the political context was dragged out as a sub-plot, this one's almost in-your-face, with headlines about issues of the day – immigration policies, war (actual war between host nation and a participant is truly a first), language imperialism (no Spanish translators at the pressers), and US's particular field of expertise: money. Ticket, transport and food prices, merchandising overkill; all leading themes in the land where happiness is achieved through consumption.

GAME ON: Bouaddi (left) tackles Matheus Cunha during Brazil vs Morocco at New York New Jersey Stadium on June 13

But IT IS going to be a Great Party. As the ball's started rolling, narratives will no longer be solely dictated by off-the-pitch geopolitics and showbiz agendas. Bosnian fans descending en masse in Toronto, a small village in Kansas falling in love with Algeria, South Koreans sharing tequila with all and sundry in the Mexican Federal District, and Scottish men in kilts tobogganing into history are already viral images beginning to form our jolly memories of this World Cup.

It took a handful of matches for football to steal the limelight. The first half of Brazil vs Morocco was the thing itself. The pure excitement and passion brought by the contrast of the King Nation, the most decorated and emblematic national squad we've known, given a run for their money by the most recent arrival in the Pantheon of Greats: Morocco, with almost half the squad born outside the country, semi-finalists in Qatar 2022, winner of the Under-20 World Cup in 2025, and an average player age of under 21.

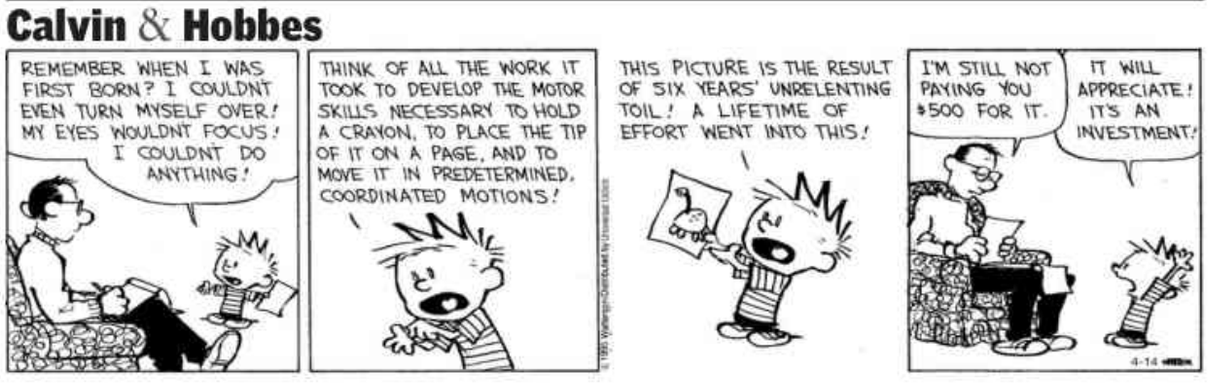
The revelation of the night might well have been 18-year-old Ayyoub Bouaddi, a long-haired, gazelle-like Moroccan, who stepped on the pitch for his World Cup debut, calm, cool, and collected, as if he faced Brazil week in, week out.

Until recently, he was actually captain of France's youth squads, and switched to wearing the Moroccan strip thanks to a new FIFA rule that allows more flexibility for youth players to choose the nation they represent, even if they have played some games for another. This contrast between place of birth and nationality, and the various implications of the distinction, will undoubtedly become one of the dominant conversations of the tournament, once again proving that football mirrors society, given how central the same is currently in many countries around the world.

Football is organic, ever-changing, and however reluctant we are about accepting the new (my father could never get over the penalty shoot-out as a way to resolve a draw), we will learn to adapt and adopt the new waves. Generations to come will fall in love with a version of the game that I will forever consider soccer, but fall in love they will.

The writer is a football expert

Calvin & Hobbes


REMEMBER WHEN I WAS FIRST BORN? I COULDN'T EVEN TURN MYSELF OVER! MY EYES WOULDN'T FOCUS! I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING!
THINK OF ALL THE WORK IT TOOK TO DEVELOP THE MOTOR SKILLS NECESSARY TO HOLD A CRAYON, TO PLACE THE TIP OF IT ON A PAGE, AND TO MOVE IT IN PREDETERMINED, COORDINATED MOTIONS!
THIS PICTURE IS THE RESULT OF SIX YEARS' UNRELENTING TOIL! A LIFETIME OF EFFORT WENT INTO THIS!
I'M STILL NOT PAYING YOU $500 FOR IT.
IT WILL APPRECIATE! IT'S AN INVESTMENT!

Sacred*space*

Meditation is oneness, when there is no longer time, sex, or country. The moment when, after you have concentrated on doing a pose (or anything else) perfectly, you then forget everything, not because you want to forget but because you are concentrated: this is meditation.

BKS Iyengar

Anatomy Of Pran And Pranayam

Satish K Kapoor

The *Chhandogya Upanishad* likens pran to a horse that drives the body's carriage. Yet pran is not just breath but the force behind the process of breathing. It animates both man and the universe.

Pran moves through five vital airs in the body – pran, apan, udan, vyan and saman; and five sub-vital airs: nag, kurm, krikar, devdutt and dhananjay. When breath moves upwards, it is called pran; when it goes downwards, it is apan; when it vitalises different organs, it is vyan; when it maintains an equilibrium, it is saman, and when it abandons the body, it is udan.

Nag is associated with belching and cough; kurm with blinking, krikar with hunger and thirst, devdutt with yawning and sleep, and dhananjay with the disintegration of the body after death. By mastering pran, one can empower the body, control the mind, and connect with the universal soul.

Human breath is the gross form of cosmic pran, which functions in all the three states of being – wakefulness, dream and deep sleep. Through pranayam, one can regulate the breathing process, control inner and outer nature, and create a positive energy field around the body.

Pranayam is a sequence of three processes – purak, inhalation, kumbhak, retention, and rechak, exhalation. These are undertaken conjointly, employing right, left, alternate or both nostrils, and even the mouth for different purposes.

It is believed that inhalation provides oxygen to the blood, and exhalation throws out carbon dioxide from the lungs. Oxygenated blood moves from the lungs to the heart, then to all parts of the body, and finally returns to the lungs, clearing toxins in the process.

Breath flowing through the Ida, left nostril, has a cooling effect, and through the Pingala, right nostril, has a heating effect. When the breath changes from left to right, or vice versa, it flows through the Sushumna, middle channel, balancing positive and negative currents in the body.

THE SPEAKING TREE

While retaining breath, three yogic bandhas, locks, are performed – mulabandh, contraction of the pelvic floor, uddiyan bandh, contraction and drawing inward and upward of the abdomen towards the back and jalandhar bandh, contraction of the throat, with a view to stabilising pran and, in turn, the mind. Yog texts say that when pran-apan vayu enters the sushumna conduit and opens up brahma granthi in the abdomen, vishnu granthi in the navel, and rudra granthi in the throat, invigorating pranamay kosh, the vital body.

Yogic texts refer to several pranayams, each having a specific use and limitation. Of the tridoshas, three biological pillars of the body, mentioned in ayurved, namely vat, pitt and kaph, Surya bhedi pranayam, right-nostril breathing, cures the first, Shitali and Shitakari pranayams, cooling breath and hissing breath respectively, second, and Ujjayi pranayam, victorious breath, the last.

Kapalbhati kriya and Bhastrika pranayam, characterised by forceful inhalation and exhalation, are useful against certain ailments. Nadi shodhan pranayam, which entails alternate breathing, is considered one of the safest pranayams.

Pranayam is said to relieve tension in the cerebral-spinal region, thereby strengthening the nervous system. It purifies the mind and body. However, its wrong practice can be harmful, warns *Hatha Yoga Pradipika* (II,16). So, it must be learnt from a competent guru.

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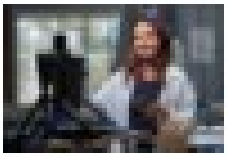

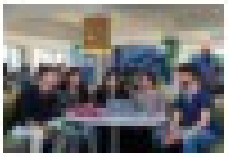

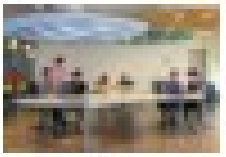

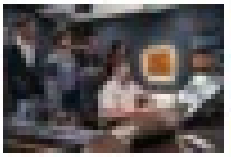

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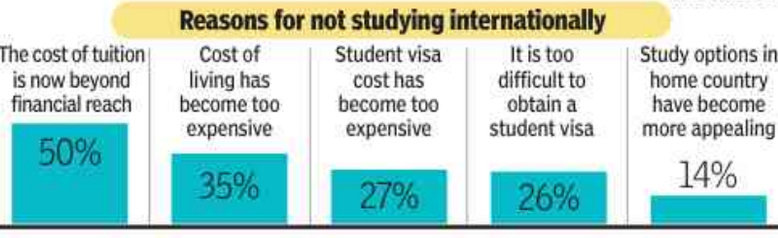
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

Employability, post-study work opportunities, and affordability remain core drivers for pursuing international education, but the high costs associated with it continue to be a deterrent, with increasing difficulty in obtaining a student visa also becoming a major reason for not studying abroad

Source: IDP education's Emerging Futures 9 report on survey of over 5,800 students from 118 countries and regions in India, China, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Philippines, Ghana, Indonesia, Pakistan, Taiwan, Vietnam

Reasons for not studying internationally


The cost of tuition is now beyond financial reach
50%
Cost of living has become too expensive
35%
Student visa cost has become too expensive
27%
It is too difficult to obtain a student visa
26%
Study options in home country have become more appealing
14%

However, globally, the perceptions of "value for money" are outcome driven rather than cost-driven, though with nuances between key markets

Factors that matter most in deciding if the education is "worth the money"

Considering cost and visa factors, students are also open to the idea of transnational education, preferring models retaining international, in-person experience, while virtual education is least preferred option

Is India's AI moment here? Not yet

Restricted Access To Advanced Models Shows The Need For India To Step Up

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Tech giants such as SoftBank's shrinking appetite for India investments, more of smaller startup cheques being written by venture capital (VC) funds or the lack of euphoria in domestic stock markets which has now been overtaken by Taiwan in terms of value for that matter—all are somehow reflective of the fact that India is far behind in the AI race.

At a time when two US AI startups Anthropic and OpenAI are heading towards public listings estimated to be worth several billion dollars, India is barely scratching the surface. For the first time since at least 2000, local companies are understood to be out of the top 10 constituents of the MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index. Consider this: TSMC alone accounts for 42% of Taiwan's benchmark index–thanks to its advanced chips which power the world's top AI models.

Not to say that Indian founders are not building high quality AI startups but lagging compute capacity, underdeveloped research ecosystem and slow domestic consumption are the reasons why India is trailing in AI, said investors. The recent move by the US govt to restrict foreign access to Anthropic's Fable 5 and Mythos 5 models only emphasises the need for India to step up its own AI capabilities, they said.

"While initiatives such as Sarvam AI's Sarvam-30B and Sarvam-105B represent important progress toward sovereign AI capabilities, India continues to rely largely on models developed and controlled by foreign companies," said Anup Jain, founding partner at BlueGreen Ventures.

OWNS LESS THAN 5% OF COMPUTE CAPACITY

- India generates nearly 20% of global data but owns less than 5% of AI compute capacity
- This leaves researchers and startups dependent on foreign cloud providers, exporting much of the economic value created from AI development
- India continues to rely largely on models developed and controlled by foreign companies
- Depth of the market in India today not enough to support massive billion dollar funding rounds
- Indian enterprises yet not paying serious money for AI
- Money worldwide is flowing into global AI giants

$40-50mn revenue elusive

Indian AI startups raised nearly $1.5 billion in the March quarter, about 38% of all startup funding, said Ashish Bhatia, founder & CEO at India Accelerator, arguing that when one in three rupees a VC writes is going to AI, the ecosystem isn't slow.

This, however, pales in comparison to leading markets like the US and China where the flow of investments is way higher. Anthropic alone raised $65 billion in recent funding at a valuation of $965 billion.

"The depth of the market in India today is not yet enough to support massive billion dollar funding rounds and trillion dollar valuations like in the US," said Pankaj Mitra, partner at Bessemer Venture Partners India, adding that the country needs deeper AI talent in fundamental research.

India lacks a competitive position at the foundation model layer. Besides, the country does not yet have an AI-first company generating $40-50 million in annual revenue, a milestone that serves as the trigger for large late-stage capital.

Sovereign compute key

Big tech giants Meta and Google are sure building AI data centres in India but it is not enough and more domestic players need to contribute. "We cannot build serious AI without GPU access at scale," said Poorvi Vijay, principal at Elevation Capital. India needs to have sovereign compute and a real say over intelligence built on Indian data, not just where the data sits, said an investor, adding that the policy focus so far has only been data localisation. "Money worldwide is flowing into global AI giants. The market perception is that India is not doing enough in terms of building LLMs or in areas like semi-conductor manufacturing,," said Nikunj Doshi, managing partner at Bay Capital.

Innovation across AI stack

So what are Indian AI founders building? Innovation is happening across the stack, say investors, although more founders are building a lot on the middle-ware layer—the plumbing between the foundation models and the enterprise deployment. "India doesn't need to win the foundation model race….that ship has sailed.

"What India needs to win is the deployment race: taking AI into agriculture, healthcare, climate and financial services at scale that no country can match," said Jain.

FPI selling continues; ₹62,853cr exits in June

New Delhi: Foreign investors remained sellers in Indian equities, dumping more than Rs 62,853 crore worth of shares in the first fortnight of June amid heightened geopolitical tensions, concerns over global economic growth and persistent weakness in the rupee.

With the latest outflows, total withdrawals by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from Indian equities have surged to Rs 2.87 lakh crore so far in 2026, surpassing the Rs 1.66 lakh crore pulled out during the entire calendar year 2025, according to data from the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL).

Pabitro Mukherjee, deputy vice-president (research) at Bajaj Broking, said FPI flows in the coming week would depend on developments in US-Iran peace talks, the US Federal Open Market Committee's policy decision, the Bank of Japan's rate decision and commentary from major central banks.

According to NSDL data, FPIs have remained net sellers in every month of 2026 except February. They withdrew Rs 35,962 crore in January before turning net buyers in February, investing Rs 22,615 crore — the highest monthly inflow in 17 months.

The trend, however, reversed sharply in March, when foreign investors pulled out a record Rs 1.17 lakh crore. The selling pressure continued in April with net outflows of Rs 60,847 crore and in May with withdrawals of Rs 32,963 crore. In June, FPIs have already withdrawn Rs 62,853 crore during the first two weeks of the month.

Himanshu Srivastava, principal, manager research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said investors continue to navigate an environment marked by elevated uncertainty over the interest rate trajectory of major central banks, geopolitical developments and concerns about global growth. "In such phases, emerging markets often witness tactical derisking as investors seek safety and rebalance portfolios towards developed markets and defensive assets," he said. AGENCIES

Jio enters top 20 in patent rankings, climbs 320 places

New Delhi: Jio Platforms has entered into the global top 20 in the latest Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) rankings released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation recently, a release said on Sunday. Jio Platforms climbed 320 places on the list for the year 2025, making it one of the fastest-rising innovators globally and securing it a place among an elite group of global technology leaders. AGENCIES

Sun: Ind director's arrest not linked to co

New Delhi: Sun Pharma clarified that the arrest of independent director Gautam Doshi has no impact on the company's operations or board processes. Doshi, former top executive in Reliance Telecom, was arrested on June 12 by the ED, in its ongoing money laundering probe against Anil Ambani's Reliance group entities. The company said, "The matter is not connected with the company and no impact is envisaged on the company or its board processes." TNN

'Success of big ticket IPOs could mean mkt peak is near'

Partha.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: SpaceX raised a record-breaking $75 billion through its IPO last week, and two more mega IPOs—OpenAI and Anthropic—are expected soon. Successful closure of all these three offers could mean it's the global market's top in the current bull phase, and a major slide could soon follow, one of the world's leading fund managers has warned.

"It is worth noting that Goldman Sachs went public just before the 2000 bear market. Blackstone went public just before the 2008 crisis," Yves Bonzon, group chief investment officer (CIO), Julius Baer, the Zurich-headquartered global private banking and wealth management major, told **TOI** recently.

Now Dow Jones, Nasdaq Composite and S&P 500, all are in record territories. SpaceX is already listed with a market cap of about $2 trillion and OpenAI and Anthropic are looking for valuations in the range of $1 trillion to $2 trillion each.

"My best guess is that when (all) these companies successfully complete their IPOs, we will be in the vicinity of a major market top. There is simply too much money at stake now," Bonzon said.

As group CIO at Julius Baer, Bonzon manages assets worth $625 billion, translating to about Rs 59.6 lakh crore. In addition, the discretionary and Julius Baer in-house fund assets, managed by the CIO office, is over $100 billion, translating to about Rs 9.5 lakh crore.

Speaking about Julius Baer's rationale for India as an investment destination, Bonzon said that the Swiss money manager had started buying Indian stocks again in July 2025 and the strategy worked till the West Asia war started in late Feb.

"We entered the allocation in June of last year. The timing appeared favourable, and it seemed to be working out well through Jan and Feb, until the conflict in (West Asia) introduced additional oil price risk." He believes if crude oil settles back into the $70-per-barrel range, India, along with China could be at the top of the list of re-rating candidates. "Unless there is a fundamental change in govt policy direction...we are unlikely to trade in and out of this allocation. Once we have a position, we hold it strategically," Bonzon said.

Talking about India's position in Julius Baer's scheme of things, Bonzon said India was a very important market for the Swiss firm. "Asia is our second home market, with the same strategic importance as Switzerland. India is a strategic growth market for Julius Baer, and we have the advantage of an onshore presence, and the brand is well recognised among our target audience in the country."

What makes Julius Baer truly distinctive is that it is the only global wealth manager of scale, outside of the US, that has neither an asset management operation nor an investment banking division, Bonzon said. "That is a genuinely unique positioning, particularly in the ultra-high-net-worth segment, where the number of institutions clients will do business with is limited."

TOO MUCH MONEY AT STAKE

"It is worth noting that Goldman Sachs went public just before the 2000 bear market. Blackstone went public just before the 2008 crisis. My best guess is that when (all) these companies successfully complete their IPOs, we will be in the vicinity of a major market top. There is simply too much money at stake — **Yves Bonzon** | GROUP CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER (CIO), JULIUS BAER

Vaishnaw expects more cos to start production of memory chips in India

New Delhi: New companies are likely to invest in India to manufacture memory chips while existing investors will scale up production to address the demand-supply gap in the segment, union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. "Definitely, a lot more investment is coming in the memory manufacturing units, and that is because for the first time the semiconductor industry has grown at such a rapid pace, for the first time we are seeing a huge shortage of certain components which are required in the AI data centres, the high bandwidth memory chips," Vaishnaw said. Data centre investments in India are expected to cross $200 billion soon, which may need billions of gigabytes of storage capacity. AGENCIES

CEA: Current valuations of AI stocks a bubble

New Delhi: Chief economic advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran has described the current valuations of AI-related companies as a "bubble", saying fears about AI-driven job losses may be exaggerated amid intense investor enthusiasm around the technology.

Nageswaran said, "The stock market, AI-related stocks and AI-related valuations are definitely a bubble. There is no question about it." He argued that much of the current narrative around AI is being shaped by companies seeking capital and convincing investors of the technology's transformative potential.

"There is so much of hype because they want to tell the capital contributors, the investors, 'Oh my God, this is going to be such a productivity bonanza'," he said.

According to the CEA, some companies are presenting AI as a tool that could sharply reduce labour costs and boost profits, creating anxiety among workers and new graduates. "They want to tell the capital owners, you will be rewarded in the process. They have induced a fear in the minds of labour," he said.

Nageswaran cautioned that meaningful assessments of AI's impact on jobs can only be made after the current wave of market excitement subsides. "A serious conversation about AI's contribution or its threat to the labour market... can happen only after the current bubble is behind us," he said.

The CEA added that there is currently "far too much fear and far little information about the AI threat." AGENCIES

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

Large Caps Gain Appeal as Nifty Consolidates

Given a range-bound movement in Nifty 50 over the last 20 months after hitting a new peak in Sept 2024, wealth managers point out that valuations in large cap stocks are in line with long term averages. They feel investors can allocate to large caps and use a mix of active and passive funds

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

What Are Large Cap Funds?

As per regulatory guidelines, a large cap company is one that is ranked from 1st to 100th on the Indian stock exchanges in terms of market capitalisation. For a mutual fund, an actively managed large cap fund is one that allocates at least 80% of its assets to large cap companies, with a flexibility to invest the balance 20% at the fund manager's discretion. On the other hand, a passive large cap fund is a plain vanilla fund that mimics a large cap index such as the BSE sensex, Nifty 50, Nifty Next 50 and Nifty 100.

How Do Active & Passive Funds Differ?

A passive fund merely mimics its underlying index, and there is no fund manager bias. In an active fund, it is the fund manager who picks and chooses stocks and builds a portfolio in line with his view of the equity markets. The two strategies differ on cost. While passive funds cost anywhere between 5 basis points to 50 basis points for a direct plan, active funds cost 50-125 basis points.

Why Are Large Cap Funds Recommended Now?

The price-earnings (P/E) multiple of the Nifty 50 stands at 21, close to its historical long-term average. In an environment of global uncertainty where oil prices have risen amid the West Asian crisis, analysts believe it is safer to allocate to large companies.
These companies have experienced promoters, strong balance sheets, access to talent and resources due to their strong brand name. They are tracked by both Indian institutional as well as foreign investors and hence there is higher transparency and availability of reports on the performance and outlook of these companies. From a stock market perspective, such companies are likely to be more stable and there is visibility of earnings and longevity of such companies compared with their smaller counterparts.

How Should You Allocate To A Large Cap Fund?

Depending on their cash flows, investors can make a lump sum or staggered allocation to large cap funds which should be a core allocation of their portfolio. Investors may also split the allocation between an active and passive fund, as this will give them the best mix of both the strategies going ahead. Conservative investors who are not comfortable with volatility can own only large-cap-oriented funds.

— PRASHANT MAHESH

Panel to examine metrics as labour market evolves

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New Delhi: With an eye on strengthening the labour market data, the statistics ministry has set up a high-powered experts committee to examine issues linked to the informal sector employment, moonlighting, seasonal migration, and the gig and platform work.

The 22-member panel, constituted on June 9, will be headed by Institute for Human Development (IHD) professor Alakh Sharma and, among other things, will also review the adequacy of existing labour market indicators and their publication timelines.

"The committee shall, inter alia, examine the concepts, definitions, classifications, sampling and measurement frameworks adopted in labour statistics, particularly in the context of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)," the terms of reference of the newly formed committee read.

It will also review the classification frameworks presently adopted in labour statistics, including industry, occupation, status of employment, and enterprise characteristics. The committee will have a term of two years and will also witness participation from Niti Aayog, labour ministry and skill ministry, along with education ministry.

Besides, it will also examine issues relating to development of demand-side labour market indicators in India, including measurement of labour demand, job vacancies, labour turnover, occupational demand, skill requirements and job–skill mismatch.

"The committee may also examine the use of administrative and alternative data sources including National Career Service (NCS), MCA databases, job portals, enterprise/ HR administrative datasets and other digital labour market information systems for generation of high-frequency demand-side indicators," the order said.

The committee will also examine the implications of the international definitions related to forms of work, informal employment, own-use production work, unpaid trainee work and suggest suitable adaptations to the Indian context, in line with recommendations of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

KKR: Leveraged deals from '21, treasuries to feel pressure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Global investment firm KKR has said that central banks globally will start tightening this year and it has expressed caution on long-duration govt bonds, over-levered 2021 vintage deals, lower-income consumer exposure, and assets dependent on a return to the old regime of low inflation, low rates, and abundant liquidity.

In its mid-year outlook report 'The Divergence Conundrum' KKR has warned that the global easing cycle is fading and central banks may stay restrictive for longer, as inflation proves stickier and growth more resilient than expected.

"The easing cycle is fading, and the next debate may be more about how long policy stays restrictive," said Henry H McVey, head of global macro and asset allocation at KKR. He added, "Inflation headwinds will also likely stay a bit higher for even longer, and central banks could be more restrictive than originally thought."

The report signals a clear shift in global monetary policy this year. KKR flagged multiple areas of caution for investors. "In our view, long-duration treasuries have become a less reliable safe haven since the onset of Covid," the report said."

Skilled blue-collar talent in demand amid AI surge

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New Delhi: Most of the conversation around AI has been about the jobs it could disrupt. What the technology has also triggered, far less visibly, is an unprecedented surge in demand for certain skilled human talent. An analysis by talent firm Randstad of over 50 million job postings, shared exclusively with **TOI**, shows the demand in India has skyrocketed for electricians by 242%, HVAC technicians 200%, and robotics technicians over 500%, in four years.

"Every AI breakthrough has a physical backbone — power grids need an upgrade, cooling systems must be built, and factories increasingly need to be automated. Behind every intelligent machine, highly specialised human expertise is required," Viswanath P S, MD & CEO, Randstad India, said.

Terming it as a pronounced "labour flip", he said skilled, technical trades are outpacing traditional, entry-level professional roles.

Skilled workers, categorised under the blue-collar workforce, are those who hold a formal certification, diploma, or degree, from a reputable institute, such as a certified welder or an electrician.

According to the analysis, the surge in demand for skilled trades is also reshaping compensation structures with the salary gap between skilled blue-collar workers and entry-level white-collar employees narrowing.

In India, average blue-collar salaries are growing at 5.7% year-on-year compared with 4% for entry-level white-collar roles, the analysis said.

The average blue-collar salary here is $2,612, but certain specialised roles could command significantly more. For instance, annual remuneration in India for mechanics involved in robotics and specialised maintenance is $9,106, while plant and machine operators earn $7,815 and workers in building and construction $5,420. Electricians, which encompasses HVAC installation/wiring, are paid $3,296.

As against this, for basic entry-level white-collar positions such as data-entry operators and junior accounting roles, the remuneration is around $2,711. Some of these roles are increasingly being impacted by automation and AI.

Meanwhile, the hiring trends reflect this shift as well. India's blue-collar job volumes have surged by a staggering 93% in four years between 2022 and 2026, which is linked to infrastructure development and AI-related backbones, the analysis says. Interestingly, India presents a unique dual-growth market. "Unlike major Western economies that saw severe contractions in desk-based work, India's labour market is expanding across the board. White-collar roles also demonstrated robust momentum, growing by over 40%," Viswanath says.

"Certain GCCs are currently creating entry-level opportunities, such as payroll specialist roles. However, it remains to be seen how long these jobs will endure in an AI-driven environment," he said.

JOB VOLUMES UP 93%: SURVEY

- Between early 2022 and early 2026, India's blue-collar job volumes surged **93%**, outpacing a still strong white-collar growth of **40%**
- In India, blue-collar salaries are growing at an avg **5.7%** YoY compared with **4%** for entry-level white-collar roles

Every AI breakthrough has a physical backbone — power grids need an upgrade, cooling systems must be built, and factories increasingly need to be automated. Behind every intelligent machine, highly specialised human expertise is required — VISWANATH P S | MD & CEO, RANDSTAD INDIA

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

EVERYTHING COMES TO HIM WHO HUSTLES WHILE HE WAITS
— THOMAS EDISON

SETH ROGEN SAYS HE HAS NO PLANS TO WORK WITH FORMER FRIEND JAMES FRANCO AGAIN AFTER ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

MATT DAMON STEPS BACK FROM HOLLYWOOD TO GIVE TIME TO FAMILY: 'NOT INTERESTED IN CHASING EVERY OPPORTUNITY'

Trump says Israel should not have struck Lebanon, but Iran deal close

Tehran Cites Strikes As Evidence Of Uncertain Security Guarantees: 'No Signing Date Agreed Upon'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In a striking public rebuke to Tel Aviv, US President Donald Trump on Sunday urged restraint after an Israeli strike on Beirut threatened to derail what he has repeatedly described as an imminent peace agreement with Iran, a deal that despite his confident predictions would be signed on Sunday, had not materialised till the time of going to press.

The Israeli military said Sunday Hezbollah had launched three projectiles towards communities in Israel in violation of a ceasefire. Israel then fired at what it called Hezbollah targets in the Dahiyeh neighbourhood of Beirut in an attack that Lebanon's civil defence said killed three people.

"This morning's attack on Beirut should not have happened," Trump said on Truth Social. "We are very close to a Deal that will bring peace to the region, including to Lebanon... This could be the beginning of a long and beautiful peace... Let's not blow it!" He said while Israel has the right to defend itself against threats, the attack it was responding to was" very small and meaningless, nobody was hurt, injured, or killed, and should not disrupt this important process."

Later, in a phone call to Axios news outlet on Sunday, Trump said that a peace deal was to be signed within hours. "It (Israel's strikes) shook it up. It delayed the signing by a few hours. It was supposed to be now. Now it is scheduled for a few hours from now," Trump said. "Why did Bibi have to do a f*****g attack?" Trump told Axios. "I was so pissed off. I let him know. He has no f*****g judgement. I let him know that."

Reuters

Smoke rises near destroyed structures in southern Lebanon on Sunday

The unusually direct message reflected growing White House frustration with Israel's apparent determination to maintain military pressure on Hezbollah and Iran's regional allies, even as Washington races to secure a broader understanding with Tehran. Regional analysts believe the Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs was not merely an operational response to a "meaningless" Hezbollah attack, but a meticulously timed diplomatic middle finger.

Israel did not respond to the assertion. Israel has said it will retain freedom of operations in Lebanon. Tehran has made a full ceasefire there an important component of its demands.

Tel Aviv is reportedly convinced that Trump — ever eager for a dramatic diplomatic flourish — is offering Iran more concessions than they consider prudent. Among the reported inducements are sanctions relief, release of frozen Iranian assets and a phased reopening of maritime access through the Strait of Hormuz that will revitalise Iran's economy.

The result has been a geopolitical spectacle worthy of reality television: America's closest ally in West Asia appearing to sabotage the signature foreign-policy initiative of a president who prides himself on being the ultimate dealmaker – all in the middle of a cage fight on the lawns of the White House to celebrate his 80th birthday.

The peace deal itself remains tantalisingly close and maddeningly out of reach. Trump had confidently predicted that the accord would be signed on Sunday, but evidently Tehran, has not received that memo.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei cautioned against "premature announcements" and emphasised that no signing date had been agreed upon. Iranian negotiators also cited the Beirut strike as evidence that regional stability guarantees remained uncertain. Tehran's message was simple: diplomatic agreements and timetables are not produced like Trump's on-the-fly campaign rally schedules.

Draft terms of peace deal by multiple sources indicate the US would begin releasing frozen Iranian assets and waive sanctions on its oil exports, in return for Iran opening the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's nuclear programme would then be addressed during a 60-day period of talks.

A senior Iranian official said that Iran agreed to maintain the nuclear status quo, including no uranium enrichment or expanding nuclear facilities, until a final deal was reached. A US official said the agreement would ultimately lead to the dismantling of Iran's nuclear programme, with its stockpile of highly enriched uranium to be destroyed and removed. The senior Iranian official said the draft deal would allow Iran, which denies seeking a nuclear bomb, to dilute its enriched uranium inside the country.

Vice president JD Vance, meanwhile, remains on standby to fly to Geneva at short notice if negotiations suddenly crystallise into a deal. It would not be the first time he has been dispatched as Trump's roving envoy amid concern among his supporters that he's being thrown into a blender that will do his political future no good.

The broader atmosphere surrounding the talks has done little to reassure America's allies. Analysts describe Trump's foreign policy as operating somewhere between strategic ambiguity and freestyle jazz, with harsher critics, channelling Shakespeare, asserting it is full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. For now, the Sunday signing in Switzerland remains a diplomatic mirage while the prospect of blood in the UFC cage fight remains real.

With inputs from agencies

At 80, Trump chooses cage fight in an octagon

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Donald Trump, the oldest man to be sworn in as the US President, turned 80 on Sunday in the only way the MAGA boss plausibly could: by staging a cage fight on the White House lawn while trying to broker peace in West Asia. One gift arrived. The other did not.

Towering 92 feet over the historic South Lawn, where American presidents once welcomed world leaders, hosted state dinners, and rolled Easter eggs, a giant steel octagon dubbed "The Claw" has risen like an alien spacecraft. This is where the White House is hosting "UFC Freedom 250" — because nothing says "Happy 80th, Grandpa" quite like bare-bodied men in shorts trying to beat the sh1t out of each other on the same grass where foreign dignitaries usually receive 21-gun salutes.

Forget cake and candles, this commander-in-chief wants blood, sweat, raw energy, and pay-per-view royalties, all while critics clutch their pearls and supporters roar like it's the Super Bowl, Wrestle Mania, and World Cup soccer finale rolled into one glorious, testosterone-fuelled spectacle.

The backdrop to this birthday bash is a dizzying exercise in political cognitive dissonance. Depending on which side of the partisan aisle you sit, the President is either transitioning into a biological marvel or a walking medical mystery.

To his loyal supporters, Trump is a political Superman endowed with infinite vitality. They view him as a grandmaster playing 4-D chess against a world of checkers players, running rings around his political opponents while gracefully "aging in reverse."

To his critics, however, the President is fighting a losing battle against Father Time. Opponents keep cataloguing his physical state like an estate sale inventory, mocking his swollen ankles, the recurring mystery bruises on the back of his hands that look like they lost a fight with a porcupine, and verbal detours that wander through history, geography and mythology like tourists without a guidebook. Detractors have gleefully weaponised recent videos of Trump dozing off during Oval Office briefings, rebranding the former "Sleepy Joe" antagonist as "Dozy Don."

But Trump intends to silence the chatter about his mental acuity and physical decline through the ultimate proxy: raw, unadulterated, state-sponsored violence.

For readers unfamiliar with this American export, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is a blood sport that can best be described as human cockfighting, but with better branding and corporate sponsorships: two contestants are locked inside an octagonal cage, where they are legally allowed to punch, kick, elbow, knee, and choke one another until one passes out, taps out in agony, or the referee decides enough blood has been spilled on the canvas. The scrap often leaves fighters with cauliflower ears and noses like squished tomatoes.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship is a blood sport: two contestants are locked inside an octagonal cage, where they are legally allowed to punch, kick, elbow, knee, and choke one another until one passes out, taps out in agony, or the referee decides enough blood has been spilled

The President's supporters celebrate the cage fight as a glorious expression of red-blooded, masculine American exceptionalism, arguing that Trump is merely embracing a more authentic version of American culture — one less concerned with diplomatic niceties and more comfortable with beer, barbecue, and people beating the crap out of each other.

Critics though are horrified, calling the spectacle an ugly, vulgar display that denigrates the dignity of the presidency, pointing out the rich irony of a man who famously avoided the Vietnam draft via a bone spurs diagnosis now using active-duty military guests as a human backdrop for an aggressive display of machismo.

And then there is the matter of the president's missing birthday present. Trump had implied that his 80th year would be capped off by a historic, "maximum pressure" Iran peace deal. Instead, Tehran has played the role of another grumpy grandpa who refuses to sign the birthday card.

Still the MAGA supremo, ever the showman, seems delighted at his achievement of pulling off a "yuge" spectacle. At 80, he's omnipresent, refusing the quiet dignity of aging in a rocking chair in favour of endless rallies, posts, and now, live combat sports on federal property. As the sun sets on this birthday brawl, one can't help but marvel at the metaphor. America in 2026: loud, divided, and punch-drunk on its own chaos. In which Trump enters the Octagon of history not as a frail elder statesman but as the ultimate fighter — bruised, swollen, yet still swinging.

Bloomberg

Fans cheer during the UFC Freedom250 fan fest on the Ellipse of the White House on Saturday. President Trump's Ultimate Fighting Championship event will go on as planned on the White House grounds after a federal judge rejected an eleventh-hour bid to stop it

British forces intercept Russian shadow fleet tanker in the Channel

London: British commandos boarded and intercepted a sanctioned Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in the Channel on Sunday, leading for the first time an operation to disrupt the oil revenue that helps fund Russia's war in Ukraine.

The vessel Smyrtos, sailing under a Cameroonian flag, was boarded by Royal Marine Commandos and National Crime Agency officials in the early hours on Sunday, with support from Chinook helicopters and other aircraft, a frigate and a minehunter.

"This successful operation delivers yet another blow to Russia and reminds those fuelling Putin's war in Ukraine that we will not let them hide," PM Keir Starmer said in a post on X. Video of the raid released by the govt showed British commandos abseiling onto the vessel, while NCA officials were seen searching through documentation.

Lt Col Tom Quinn told reporters that while there were a number of risks involved in the operation, it was a core part of the commandos' training and they had not faced any resistance. "Once we boarded the vessel and moved to the bridge the dialogue that we had with them was professional, safe, and indeed the crew enabled us to conduct the actions that we needed to complete to safely take control of that vessel and move it to an anchorage," he said.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on X that he was grateful to Britain for the tanker's detention. The Russian embassy in London did not immediately respond to a request for comment. REUTERS

Ending Ukraine war vital: Trump to Putin

US President Trump told Russian President Putin on Sunday that ending the conflict in Ukraine was vital and he was ready to help, Russian news agencies quoted Kremlin adviser Yuri Ushakov as saying. Ushakov also said Trump told Putin that an agreement on ending the conflict with Iran was nearly complete and the Kremlin leader expressed satisfaction that hostilities would end. REUTERS

DOZENS HELD IN NYC VIOLENCE AFTER KNICKS WIN NBA TITLE

Bloomberg

New York police said Sunday that 63 people were arrested overnight as unruly crowds flooded into the city's streets to celebrate the Knicks' first NBA championship in 53 years. One person was shot and four were stabbed as people bashed police cars with bats, shattering windshields, and set school buses on fire, a New York police department spokesperson said. Ten police officers were injured, including one who was punched in the face and another who was struck with a glass bottle. AFP

Desi turns hero after daring rescue of 3-year-old in UK

London: An Indian-origin restaurant manager has become a local hero after his daring rescue of a three-year-old girl dangling from a window ledge in east London went viral. Mohamed Jesil, originally from Malappuram in Kerala, said he acted on instinct as he thought of his own children when he spotted the terrified little girl struggling to find her footing earlier this week.

The father of twins, aged five months, also credited his cricketing skills for the way he was able to take the tricky "catch" when the girl jumped. 'I wasn't scared, I just didn't think. I'm not a hero, I just did it as a dad seeing a child in trouble," Jesil told 'Metro'. "I played cricket in India so that may have helped with my catching. I just knew I had to concentrate," he said.

The girl's father described the policeman and Jesil as "amazing heroes". "They were both amazing. They were heroes. We are so relieved. They saved our child. She is fine thanks to them. We are very grateful," he said.

Mohamed Jesil said he acted on instinct as he thought of his own kids when he spotted the little girl dangling from a window ledge

The video of the rescue, which has been viral, shows Jesil jump up a shop's rooftop to join a cop, also trying to help the girl climb down safely. Both men positioned themselves beneath her and could be seen encouraging her to make the leap. She eventually landed in Jesil's arms. PTI

Former B'desh top cop, wanted by Interpol, arrested

Dhaka: Bangladesh's former police chief **Benazir Ahmed** was arrested in Dubai, the interior minister said Sunday, years after he fled his home country where he is facing multiple charges including corruption.

Benazir left the country in May 2024 amid public outrage over allegations that he had stashed an illegal multi-million dollar fortune. The US imposed sanctions against the official in 2021 for his alleged role in hundreds of disappearances and extrajudicial killings. "Benazir Ahmed was arrested on June 12 and he will be extradited soon," Bangladesh's Interior Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told parliament. "An Interpol Red Notice was issued against Benazir," he added. AFP

Pak police kill Aussie girl in case of mistaken identity

Lahore: A nine-year-old Australian girl of Pakistan origin was killed and her father and brother were critically injured when police personnel opened indiscriminate fire on their car suspecting them to be robbers in Punjab province of Pakistan, police said Sunday. The incident took place in Chakwal district on June 10.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said the incident has caused significant distress to the Australian-Pakistani community.

According to police, Australian-Pakistani family — Adeel Ahmed, 39, his wife Dr Sidra Khan, daughter Hania, 9, and son Aafan, 10 — returned to Pakistan after performing Hajj last week. Last Wednesday night, Ahmad along with his three family members was going to his father-in-law's house for dinner in a car when they were waylaid by two armed gunmen on a motorcycle, the police said.

He called the police emergency number and police communicated the incident to the Crime Control Department (CCD), a specialised force against criminals, the statement added. The CCD personnel reached the spot and mistook the family in the car for robbers and opened indiscriminate fire, the police said. As a result, the car was riddled with bullets and nine-year-old Hania died on the spot while Adeel and Aafan were critically injured.

Police said a CCD official has been arrested. The police said two suspects who tried to rob the family were arrested. They were shot dead in a police encounter while allegedly trying to flee, police said. PTI

China direct strike threat to Australia 'growing': Report

Sydney: China is capable of a direct missile strike on Australia and the threat is growing as Beijing amasses long-range weapons and builds islands in the South China Sea, an Australian think tank said Sunday. A Lowy Institute report found the main threat to Australia was from Chinese missiles that could reach the island continent from China.

Sam Roggeveen, director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program, said the report was "neither hawkish nor dovish, neither alarmist nor complacent". "I think the growth of People's Liberation Army is the most important thing to happen to Australian security since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and there is a need for a more informed Australian discussion about it," he said. AFP

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

ALL ABOARD THE 1980s: People aboard Poland's retro train. The 'Unhurried' train runs at a slower pace along scenic routes and offers traditional Polish meals, evoking rail travel in the 1980s

Philippine quake raised seabed by up to two metres

A powerful earthquake that killed at least 61 people in the Philippines this week raised the seabed by as much as two metres (6.6 feet), exposing coral and harming marine life, the environment department said on Sunday. The 7.8-magnitude tremor in southern Mindanao island on Monday has also left at least 40 people missing, according to updated tolls from the disaster agency. Local residents first reported the geological phenomenon known as "coastal uplift" two days after the quake, which extended the shoreline by as much as 200 metres in some places, the environment department said. A shifting of the Cotabato Trench "pushed upward part of the coastlines of Sarangani and Davao Occidental (provinces)... exposing the bottom of the sea that was originally submerged", the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement. "Approximately 2m was the mapped uplift."

Taiwan spy agency starts webpage for Chinese nationals to report tips

Taiwan's intelligence agency said on Sunday it is establishing an information-reporting channel for Chinese nationals to offer tips securely, at a time when tensions between Beijing and the self-ruled island remain elevated. In a statement, Taiwan's National Security Bureau said they are launching a webpage that will act as a secure channel for Chinese nationals to provide intelligence-related information, saying that an increasing number of people have recently approached relevant agencies in Taiwan wishing to "provide various types of information." Taiwan officials said the move was made in reference to practices adopted by intelligence agencies in the US, the UK and Israel. Last year, the CIA released Mandarin-language videos online inviting disgruntled Chinese officials to contact them.

Why Trump, other G7 leaders meeting sans China might be a mistake

Paris: From the outset, China wasn't included when major powers gathered in 1975 at a chateau outside Paris to fix the slumping global economy, the first of what have become annual summits by the G7 club of wealthy nations to forward their interests. No surprise there. Imagining Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong brainstorming with US President Gerald Ford and other leaders would have been unthinkable.

China was in turmoil, nowhere close to becoming the economic giant it is now. Mao had also helped defeat France and US forces in Vietnam, by militarily supporting Ho Chi Minh's communists. So Mao would have been the odd man out had he been at the inaugural summit of six nations, growing into the G7 when Canada joined the following year. But as US President Donald Trump and his G7 counterparts gathered again in France from Monday, China's exclusion from the informal club's summits also looks odd, given its immense sway over the world's economic well-being and affairs.

But does the G7 make sense sans China? If determined only by economic success, China would already be in the club. Its economy, swollen by decades of growth since Mao's death in 1976, now dwarfs those of G7 nations Germany, Japan, the UK, France, Italy and Canada — leaving only the US to catch.

From being "only a tiny, benign, panda bear" in 1975, "China has become a great global dragon," says John Kirton, a University of Toronto specialist on the G7. A year ago, Trump mused about possibly expanding the club to include China, saying " it's not a bad idea " when a journalist asked him. But an unwritten G7 rule has always been that it's only for democracies. "We are each responsible for govt of an open,

Reuters

Activists protest against the upcoming G7 summit near Evian-les-Bains

nological advances and growing military strength are giving rivals cold sweats. And it is the world's biggest emitter of climate-warming pollution. All this means that China will be an elephant in the room at the G7 summit.

China's Communist Party-led govt has in the past criticised the G7's exclusiveness and painted it as a relic of the Cold War. But in a statement ahead of the gathering, the Chinese foreign ministry took a more nuanced view, saying "the G7 should serve as a catalyst for solidarity and cooperation rather than an amplifier of division and confrontation".

Analysts say that admitting China into the club could wreck its cohesion, not only because Beijing's authoritarian system of govt, interests and its positions on Russia, Iran and other major issues don't align with those of G7 democracies but also because its presence could test their long-standing alliances. "China inside would indeed be a Trojan horse," said Kirton. With a Chinese leader at the table, "individual members might be tempted to break G7 ranks to secure special favours from him on the economic, critical minerals, digital technology and other issues they address."

Chris Alden, an international relations expert at the London School of Economics and Political Science, said that adding China "would make it very difficult for it to function." The G7's last expansion — accepting Russia as a member in 1998 — didn't end well. The club froze out Russian President Vladimir Putin when he seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. But Kirton said the experience convinced other leaders "that they should never take a chance on a less than fully democratic power becoming a full member of their club again." AP

GOAL RUSH
11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026
TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

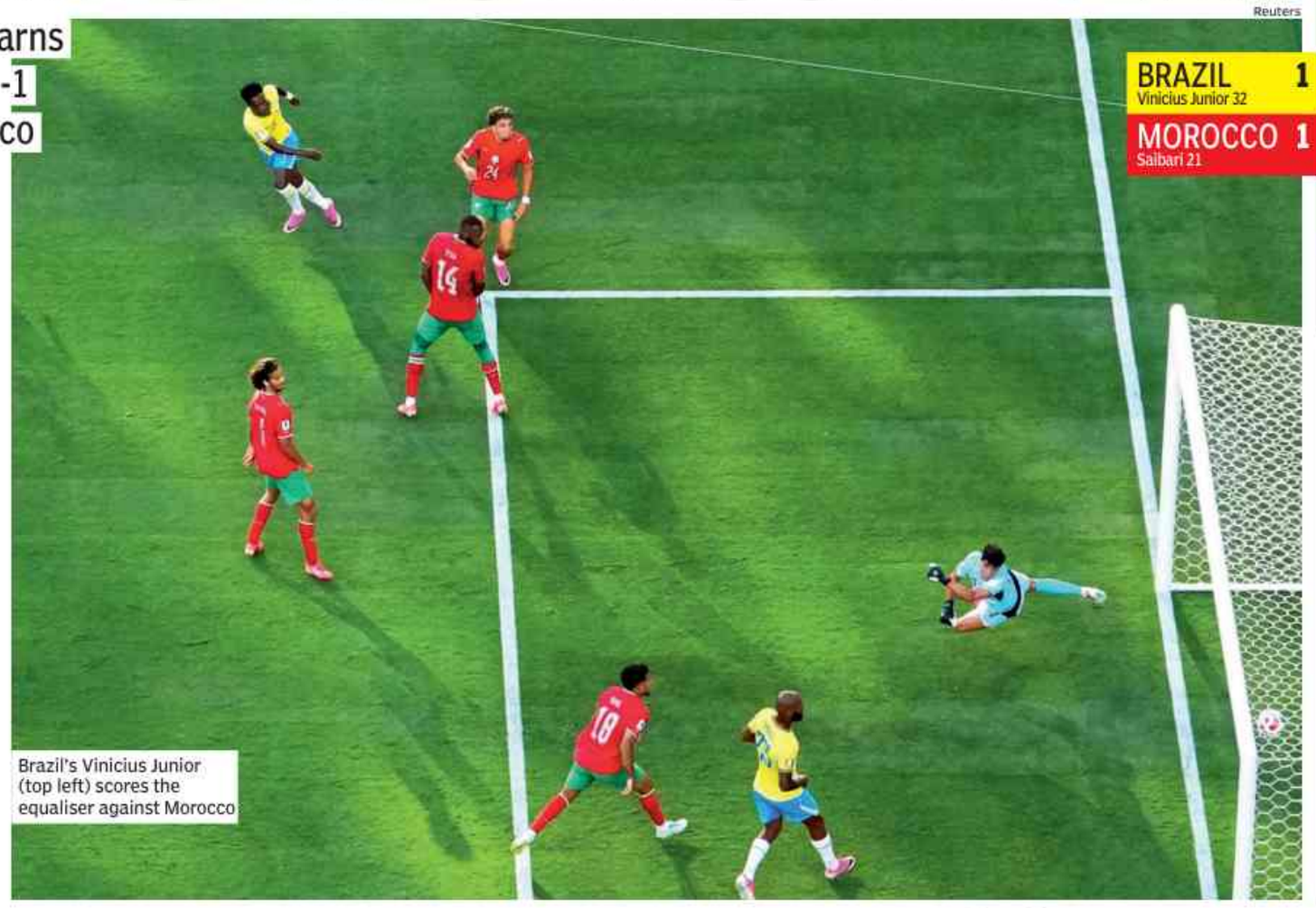
"I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A WORLD CUP. I'VE WAITED 62 YEARS TO BE AT A WORLD CUP, I'VE BEEN IN FOOTBALL FOR 44 YEARS. THIS FOR ME IS EVERYTHING, THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO DO."

—STEVE CLARKE
SCOTLAND MANAGER ON HIS FIRST WIN IN THE WORLD CUP

SAMBA STARS MISS A BEAT

Vinicius' Equaliser Earns Brazil Hard-Fought 1-1 Draw Against Morocco

Reuters



BRAZIL 1
Vinicius Junior 32
MOROCCO 1
Saibari 21

Brazil's Vinicius Junior (top left) scores the equaliser against Morocco

East Rutherford (New Jersey): Brazil escaped with a point against Morocco, but Vinicius Junior's moment of Real Madrid-inspired brilliance could not hide the deeper issues exposed during a worrying opening 30 minutes.

For stretches of the first half, the five-time champions looked disjointed, lacking creativity, control and defensive organisation. Some Brazilian observers even described it as the team's worst spell since the infamous 7-1 defeat to Germany at the 2014 World Cup. Unlike that national trauma, however, Saturday's stumble is unlikely to have lasting consequences.

Vinicius rescued Brazil with a trademark burst down the left and a sublime finish after Ismael Saibari had handed Morocco a deserved lead. The equaliser prevented an alarming first-half collapse, but it did little to erase the uncomfortable questions facing Carlo Ancelotti ahead of Friday's clash against Haiti. Brazil's weaknesses were visible long before the tournament began: a midfield lacking creativity and control, and a shortage of specialist full-backs.

Ancelotti's squad construction only amplified those concerns. He picked just five midfielders in his 26-man squad and only one natural right-back, Wesley, who was later ruled out through injury.

Rather than replacing him with another specialist right-back, Ancelotti opted for an extra midfielder, forcing centre-backs to compete for a makeshift role on the flank.

Against Morocco, that gamble backfired. Roger Ibanez, deployed at right-back, endured a torrid first half as Noussair Mazraoui and Bilal El Khannouss repeatedly exploited the space behind him. His misplaced passes and defensive uncertainty turned Brazil's right side into Morocco's preferred route of attack.

Lucas Paqueta offered little protection, and a misunderstanding between him and Ibanez helped create the move that resulted in Saibari's opener.

However, the biggest concern for Ancelotti may be Casemiro.

The 34-year-old, expected to provide stability after an impressive season with Manchester United, repeatedly surrendered possession, misplaced simple passes and found himself out of position.

Ancelotti reacted decisively at halftime, replacing both Ibanez and Casemiro with Danilo and Fabinho. The changes immediately gave Brazil greater balance.

Danilo brought composure to the backline, while former Liverpool midfielder Fabinho restored control and defensive authority in the middle. Brazil dominated long periods of the second half and created enough opportunities to believe a comeback victory was possible.

Ancelotti's attacking selection also raised questions. His decision to start Brentford striker Igor Thiago ahead of Matheus Cunha, Luiz Henrique and Endrick disrupted Brazil's attacking rhythm. The forward struggled to link with Raphinha and Vinicius and was substituted after an ineffective display.

The introductions of Cunha and Luiz Henrique, along with Fabinho and Danilo, brought greater movement, improved passing options and a clearer attacking structure. Ancelotti admitted Brazil had fallen below their standards but urged patience.

The real test for Ancelotti now is whether he is willing to abandon his early experiments. In the World Cup, there is little time for trial and error. Brazil are chasing a sixth title after 24 years of disappointment, and their opening-night warning has made one thing clear — corrections must come quickly. REUTERS

TINY CURACAO'S BIG FEAT

Reuters

DAVID AND THE GOLIATH: Livano Comenencia scores for Curacao to surprise Germany in the first-half on Monday. Despite not being overawed, the debutants trail 1-3 at the break

Coach Ancelotti calls for patience after draw

East Rutherford: Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti said that "you don't win a World Cup based on your first match" after the five-time champions laboured to a 1-1 draw with Morocco on Saturday.

"I think this was a tough match, especially in the beginning. I think the team was a bit anxious and nerves were all over the place," said Ancelotti.

"We didn't play well, but we cannot lose heart. This is the first match in the World Cup and we can't... think the team is doing perfectly from the get-go. This was the result we had. It wasn't bad, but we'll keep picking up from the second match on. You don't win a World Cup based on your first match."

Ancelotti tipped Vinicius to excel at the tournament as the leader of the attack, a role he will fulfil even when Brazil's all-time record scorer Neymar returns from a calf injury. "He did well. He was very dangerous and I think he has everything in his power to have a great World Cup," Ancelotti said.

However, Vinicius rued Brazil's sluggish start against a Morocco side that had been told by their coach to approach the match with no fear. AGENCIES

Qatar notch first-ever WC point with late goal

Santa Clara: Qatar earned the first World Cup point in their history when they stunned Switzerland with a late equaliser to grab a 1-1 draw in both sides' opener on Saturday. A Breel Embolo penalty had broken the deadlock for Switzerland early in the first half in Santa Clara, before the Swiss were made to pay by a Miro Muheim own goal.

Qatar, appearing in just their second finals after hosting the 2022 World Cup, looked rusty after their preparations were disrupted by the Middle East war, meaning their meeting with Switzerland was just their third match since December last year.

And for the majority of the match they were outclassed as Switzerland racked up 26 shots, before the unfortunate Muheim put through his own net under intense pressure from Qatar captain Boualem Khoukhi four minutes into injury time to spark wild celebrations on the Qatar bench.

QATAR 1
Miro Muheim 90+4 og
SWITZERLAND 1
Breel Embolo 17

"I am very proud of the team," said Qatar's Spanish coach Julen Lopetegui. "I told them that even if we hadn't scored the goal and didn't draw I would have been proud of the mentality and discipline that they showed today. But fortunately we scored and that was history."

For Lopetegui it was also a landmark moment as he coached his first World Cup match — eight years later than he thought it might have been. The 59-year-old had been set to guide Spain at the 2018 edition in Russia, but was sacked days before the start of the tournament after it was announced he had agreed to take over Real Madrid after the World Cup.

The Swiss are seeking to progress to the knockout stages for the fourth consecutive World Cup but their inability to kill off a match they dominated will worry coach Murat Yakin.

Manuel Akanji offered Qatar the first big chance of the match in just the second minute as his defensive lapse sent Edmilson Junior through, but he could only shoot tamely at Gregor Kobel.

That let-off woke up the Swiss, who were awarded a penalty on 13 minutes as goalkeeper Mahmoud Abunada clattered into Remo Freuler, despite a suspicion of offside, and after a four-minute stoppage Embolo sent the goalkeeper the wrong way from the spot. AFP

Socceroos Ruin Turkey's Long-Awaited WC Return

AUSTRALIA BEGIN WITH EASY WIN

IANS

Connor Metcalfe (right) celebrates Australia's second goal

AUSTRALIA 2
Nestory Irankunda 27, Connor Metcalfe 75
TURKEY 0

Vancouver: Nestory Irankunda and Connor Metcalfe scored as Australia spoiled Turkey's return to the World Cup for the first time in 24 years with a 2-0 victory on Saturday night.

Goalkeeper Patrick Beach made eight saves for the Socceroos in their group opener as FIFA president Gianni Infantino looked on. Australia was playing in its sixth straight World Cup and seventh overall.

Turkey reached the semifinals of the 2002 World Cup but then missed five straight tournaments before qualifying this year by beating Kosovo in a playoff. Irankunda broke through for the Socceroos in the 27th minute with a low shot while pursued by three defenders. It came less than a minute after the first-half hydration break.

Irankunda celebrated by punching the corner flag in a tribute to Australian soccer legend Tim Cahill. The 20-year-old who plays for Watford is the Socceroo's youngest-ever goal scorer at a World Cup.

Minutes later Beach stopped Abdulkerim Bardakci's blast from distance. Beach started in goal for the Socceroos rather than experienced counterpart Matthew Ryan in a surprise decision from coach Tony Popovic.

Irankunda said the Socceroos took issue with comments Turkey captain Hakan Calhanoglu made a day before the match, proclaiming that his side had "more qualities and a more talented team."

"Yeah, it was extra motivation," Irankunda said. "Obviously we don't like people to talk bad about us because we're a great team. People underestimate us."

Kenan Yildiz, a 21-year-old who plays for Juventus, was not in the starting lineup but subbed in for Turkey at halftime. Turkey had a dangerous free kick in the 57th minute, but Arda Güler's attempt was saved by Beach. Güler, a talented 21-year-old attacking midfielder who plays for Real Madrid, was not yet born the last time Turkey played in the World Cup.

Connor Metcalfe capitalized on Ismail Yüksek's turnover in the 75th minute to double the Socceroos' lead. The Socceroos fell to France in the opener in Qatar but then beat Tunisia and Denmark in their group before getting knocked out by eventual champion Argentina in the round of 16.

Turkey maintained 72 per cent of possession and outshot the Socceroos 30-9, but couldn't manage to score. "I respect Australia very much. I was expecting that they would play this way," said Turkey coach Vincenzo Montella, who took the team to the quarterfinals of the European championships in 2024. AGENCIES

McGinn helps Scots end 36-year wait

Boston: Scotland, roared on by their Tartan Army of travelling fans, savoured their first World Cup win in 36 years on Saturday when they edged past Haiti for a scrappy 1-0 victory settled by a first-half strike from John McGinn.

The Scots — needing three points against a side ranked among the minnows of the game before facing tougher opposition in the shape of Brazil and Morocco in their other Group C matches — went ahead in the 28th minute.

A close-range effort by Che Adams was saved by Johny Placide only for the ball to fall to McGinn whose shot was deflected over the Haiti goalkeeper and into the net.

John McGinn gestures after scoring Scotland's goal

Eleven minutes earlier, Scott McTominay had smacked a shot against a post and, although Haiti showed glimpses of their electric pace and put pressure on Scotland in the closing stages, Scottish goalkeeper Angus Gunn barely had a save to make.

SCOTLAND 1
John McGinn 28
HAITI 0

The win, although not pretty, put Steve Clarke's men on top of the group ahead of five-time world champions Brazil and 2022 semi-finalists Morocco who drew 1-1 earlier on Saturday and bolstered their hopes of finally making it into the knockout round of a major competition.

At the final whistle, Scotland's supporters also showed no sign of worrying about the lack of flowing football as they launched into a raucous rendition of their trademark celebration song "Yes Sir, I Can Boogie" by Spanish 1970s disco act Baccara.

Under FIFA's expanded tournament format, three points and a decent goal difference at the end of the group stage would offer a good chance of qualifying for the knockout stage of the competition, something that has eluded Scotland in all of their previous eight World Cups.

The Scottish supporters made the most of their return to the global stage after an absence of 28 years, giving a lung-busting rendition of their familiar tribute song for McGinn.

He repaid the compliment with his goal — which at 31 years and 238 days of age made him the oldest Scotland player to score at a World Cup — less than a month after he lifted the Europa League trophy as captain of England's Aston Villa, while winger Ben Gannon-Doak threatened with his pace. REUTERS

Somali referee denied US entry will receive full fee

Miami: Somali soccer referee Omar Abdulkadir Artan, who was denied entry into the United States to officiate at the World Cup, will be paid his full tournament fee. A source said even though Artan will take no part in the World Cup, FIFA has committed to paying his salary. REUTERS

INDIA'S AT THE WORLD CUP TOO...

Pix: Anindya Chattopadhyay, Tathagata Bhattacharjee & Anup K Venu

SOAKING UP THE EXCITEMENT: **1.** Fans on a Kolkata street adorned with paper flags of Argentina and Brazil. **2.** A 15-foot World Cup trophy made of bamboo by Artist Zulumanen (in pic) and friends in Nagaland's Ungma village. **3.** A man rows past a giant cutout of Neymar in Thrissur

Opening matches are always intriguing

SMART WATCH
RAUL GONZALEZ

TOI Print Exclusive

The reigning European champions kick off against World Cup debutants from an archipelago which is part of the African continent. The 2010 World Cup winners started their previous campaign in this competition four years ago in Qatar with a 7-0 annihilation of Costa Rica.

It's an overwhelming thought that Luis de la Fuente's team will start with a crushing win once again.

A lot of things points towards a bash for La Roja. Youth, talent, ammunition, flamboyance, track record in top competitions of late — several indicators favour a Spanish rout in Atlanta.

There is uncertainty over Lamine Yamal. It is a concern for Spain going ahead into the World Cup. The anticipation is good in the sense that he would be back soon. This teenager is one of those who draws crowds. He showed what he is capable of in big matches at the previous Euro. A robust and skilfull lad, his presence will be important for the coach.

I am not undermining Cape Verde. Tiny an entity in football pedigree, they are ranked 67th in the world. Spain are No. 2 and the difference between the two in terms of everything is chalk and cheese. Still, to be in the top 70 is no mean achievement. We have seen that gaps in numbers often do not matter at this stage especially in first games and Spain will be aware of that.

> **I am not undermining Cape Verde. Tiny an entity in football pedigree, they are ranked 67th in the world. Spain are No. 2 and the difference between the two in terms of everything is chalk and cheese. Still, to be in the top 70 is no mean achievement. We have seen that gaps in numbers often do not matter at this stage especially in first games and Spain will be aware of that."**

The second-smallest country to qualify for the World Cup, Cape Verde will be eager to show their talent. Under coach Pedro Leitao Brito nicknamed Bubista, they are known to hold a disciplined defensive shape.

SPAIN VS CAPE VERDE
9:30 pm (Mon) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Centre-back Logan Costa plays for Villarreal in Spain and should be having the experience to transmit to his teammates what to expect.

There is no doubt Spain will launch a formidable assault. Whether Yamal starts or not, they are a threat to any team. There are wonderful attacking options supported by creative midfielders. Rodri, Mikel Merino, Fabian Ruiz, Pedri — it's a plethora of options and headache for coach De la Fuente. Then, you have Gavi and Martin Zubimendi waiting.

In an ideal scenario, Yamal and Nico Williams on the wings would have been a treat to watch. But both are returning from injuries and it has to be seen how they shape up. If they are firing, and with Mikel Oyarzabal, Ferran Torres, Dani Olmo ready to score, this will be a force tough to contend with. How the coach picks his players will be interesting to see.

An opening match of such a competition is always an intriguing proposal for any team. There is a history of unexpected results and a lot of other things. We lost our first game in 2010. We suffered against the Netherlands in 2014. Spain were roaring against Costa Rica in 2022. This time, we need a sound start to rock this World Cup. PMG

DE BRUYNE'S LAST DANCE

Midfielder Looks Forward To Facing Egypt And Reuniting With Salah, His Longtime EPL Rival

Renton (US): Kevin De Bruyne has accomplished plenty in his decorated career. Yet, the star Belgian midfielder does not plan to take his fourth World Cup appearance for granted.

Ahead of Belgium's World Cup opener against Egypt, the 35-year-old De Bruyne stressed much has changed since his days as a Premier League sensation for Manchester City. Nearly two decades removed from representing his home country for the first time and 119 appearances later, the two-time Premier League player of the season considers himself grateful to do so.

"It's an honour for me to still be here after playing for the national team for about 16 years. So, that means I've done something good," De Bruyne said with a laugh during the pre-match press conference. "Hopefully I can play a good tournament and do something well for Belgium."

BELGIUM VS EGYPT
12:30 am (Tue) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

This will be the first meeting between Belgium and Egypt in a World Cup, but they have played each other four times previously in friendlies. Egypt have three victories to Belgium's one.

The 2025-26 season, his first with Serie A club Napoli, was a challenging one for De Bruyne after 10 years at City. In October, De Bruyne had a severe lesion to his thigh muscle and did not return until March 6.

Since March, De Bruyne has appeared in 10 Serie A matches, as well as four friendlies for Belgium. In the most recent, on June 6, he scored during a 5-0 victory against Tunisia. Before Belgium's practice at the training facility of Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders, De Bruyne declared himself ready for the tournament.

"I have done everything I could to get fit," De Bruyne said in French, "and I feel that way too."

Even with a clean bill of health, De Bruyne knows he has fewer chances to play for the Belgium national team. The Drongen, Belgium, native admitted as much, noting he doesn't have another 10 years remaining in his career, and that he wants to enjoy all aspects of this tournament. De Bruyne's perspective is significantly different from previous stints with the Belgium national team, and his City tenure.

"You are only focused on winning and the next match," De Bruyne said, "but after you have won, it is suddenly over."

De Bruyne doesn't plan to ease back on his intensity with teammates. But, with other star players like winger Jeremy Doku on the roster, De Bruyne recognizes the onus for winning does not fall solely on him, or seasoned veterans like striker Romelu Lukaku or goalkeeper Thibault Courtois.

The 24-year-old Doku, a teammate with De Bruyne at City for two seasons, has impressed the veteran.

Reuters

I played against Mo for 10 years. Our kids also went to the same school. So, I saw him from time to time. And, he's a really nice guy. So, it will be nice to see him. It will be nice to compete again like old times."
—Kevin De Bruyne, ON CONTESTING WITH MO SALAH

"Defending Jeremy for 90 minutes is impossible," De Bruyne said. "He has also become more efficient over the past year. To play a top tournament, we need a good Doku.

"In any case, he is already making my life easier."

What qualifies as a "top tournament" for this Belgian side, though, is highly subjective. With holdovers from the "Golden Generation" teams like De Bruyne, Lukaku and Courtois, Belgium is still to be taken seriously as a threat to go all the way in the tournament, especially considering its relatively favorable draw in Group G with Egypt, New Zealand and Iran.

Still, after a historic third-place finish at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, Belgium did not advance past the group stage in 2022 in Qatar. If Belgium is to recapture the momentum of that 2018 performance, having De Bruyne in top form would go a long way. De Bruyne will have a chance to turn back the clock quickly when he and Belgium square off against former Liverpool star Mohamed Salah and Egypt in their World Cup opener on Monday. AP

Iran, New Zealand chase history in politically-charged opener

Los Angeles: Iran open their World Cup Group G campaign against New Zealand in Los Angeles on Monday in a match shaped as much by events off the pitch as by the ambitions of two teams seeking a long-awaited breakthrough.

The fixture will be played against the backdrop of the US war with Iran and in a region home to the largest Iranian community outside the country, adding a charged atmosphere to a contest between two nations who have never met at the World Cup.

IRAN VS NEW ZEALAND
6:30 am (Tue) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Iran's participation had appeared uncertain in the buildup to the tournament because of the conflict. They also moved their base camp from Tucson, Arizona, to Tijuana, Mexico, leaving them to travel internationally for each of their three group-stage matches in the United States. Iran will learn on Tuesday what sort of reception awaits them when they take to the pitch.

3 New Zealand's hopes are likely to rest heavily on captain **Chris Wood**, the country's all-time leading scorer, who underlined his importance during qualifying with successive hat-tricks against Samoa and Fiji.

For Iran and New Zealand, the match also represents a chance to change familiar World Cup narratives. Iran are appearing at a fourth successive World Cup and seventh overall but have never reached the knockout stage. New Zealand, back at the finals for the first time since 2010 and making only their third appearance, are still seeking a first World Cup win.

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei, the first Iran-born manager to lead the national team at a World Cup since Jalal Talebi in 1998, guided his side through Asian qualifying after they secured their place with a 2-2 draw against Uzbekistan in Tehran on March 25, 2025.

New Zealand booked their spot a day earlier with a 3-0 victory over New Caledonia in the Oceania qualifying final. Monday's game will be the first World Cup meeting between the teams and the first time either has faced opposition from the other's confederation at the tournament.

Iran have won a group-stage match at each of the last two World Cups, beating Morocco 1-0 in 2018 and defeating Wales 2-0 in Qatar in 2022 with two stoppage-time goals. Yet progress to the knockout phase has remained elusive. REUTERS

Tunisia ready to tackle Swedish striking pair of Gyokeres, Isak

Monterrey: Tunisia won't be content to sit back in their World Cup Group F opening match against Sweden at the Estadio Monterrey on Monday, with coach Sabri Lamouchi saying he would be sending his players out to score goals. The Tunisians developed a reputation as a tough defensive team in qualifying, registering nine wins and one draw and not conceding, but Lamouchi said that, with games against Japan and the Netherlands to come, he would be going for victory.

SWEDEN VS TUNISIA
7:30 am (Mon) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

"Who wouldn't want to start with a win tomorrow? I think that the Swedish coach and the Swedish players also are keen to start with a victory," he said. Lamouchi said his players knew the Swedish squad well, especially **Viktor Gyokeres** and Alexander Isak. "They know the quality of these two unbelievable players but Sweden they have a lot of strength even in the set pieces," he said.

Tunisia's defensive reputation suffered a blow in a 5-0 defeat by Belgium in their final warm-up game, but defender Ali Abdi says they have already learned the lessons of that game. REUTERS

Bielsa's new-look outfit face Saudi challenge

Miami: Saudi Arabia will attempt to recreate their World Cup magic from 2022 when they face Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay in their Group H opener on Tuesday, but this time it is uncertainty rather than confidence driving the Gulf nation's campaign. Saudi Arabia arrive under new coach Georgios Donis, who has no international tournament experience and was appointed less than two months before the World Cup after a dramatic managerial upheaval when Herve Renard was dismissed in April.

S ARABIA VS URUGUAY
03:30 am (Tue) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Captain Salem Al-Dawsari remains the team's talisman and greatest attacking threat.

Uruguay, meanwhile, arrive under Bielsa seeking to prove that the veteran coach's latest rebuilding project can deliver on football's biggest stage. Appointed in 2023, Bielsa has overseen a generational transition away from World Cup veterans such as Edinson Cavani and Luis Suarez, who scored the winner against Saudi Arabia when they last met at the 2018 World Cup. REUTERS

Prodigy Bouaddi announces his arrival

Reuters

NEW ATLAS LION: Ayyoub Bouaddi (R) led France's under-21 side as late as March before committing to Morocco

East Rutherford: For a teenager playing a first competitive international, Ayyoub Bouaddi looked completely at home as Morocco more than matched Brazil in their opening World Cup outing on Saturday. The 18-year-old carried an imperious air as he moved relentlessly across the pitch, constantly looking for work in an eye-catching midfield performance.

Frequently he would surge forward, the ball stuck to his feet and defenders bouncing off him, in an impressive display of power. The post-match statistics had him making more touches (86) than any of his teammates and with over 90% passing accuracy. He has been a rising star for some while now at Lille in Ligue 1 and it is no wonder the Moroccans relentlessly pursued trying to persuade the French-born prodigy to switch international allegiance.

FIFA only approved the change on May 15 and Saturday's clash was just the fourth cap for Bouaddi -- the first three for Morocco coming in their World Cup warm-up matches over the past three weeks. Coach Mohamed Ouahbi made a bold choice in bringing him into an already well-established squad against Brazil and afterwards could not hide his delight.: "We knew what a quality player he was and that's why we had many meetings to get him to choose to play for Morocco," he told reporters. REUTERS

SNAP SHOTS

Parul betters own record

India's Parul Chaudhary bettered her own national record in the women's 5000m event by clocking a new personal best time of 15:04.26 to finish second at the Meeting Nikaia 2026 in Nice, France. The Indian athlete finished the race behind Ethiopia's Bereka Seniya Mohammed, who just about edged out Parul from the top spot with a meet record time of 15:03.85. Alessia Zarbo of France ended third with a season best 15:16.83.

Neeraj named in CWG squad: Two-time Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was named in India's athletics squad for the Commonwealth Games, subject to achieving the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) qualifying standard in upcoming competitions. The 32-member squad, finalised after the federation's final selection committee meeting, also includes Gurindervir Singh (100m), Animesh Kujur (200m), Gulveer Singh (5,000m and 10,000m), Tejaswin Shankar (decathlon and high jump), Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase) and racewalker Priyanka.

Kush wins sprint race: India's ART GP driver Kush Maini clinched a dominant sprint race victory to claim his first win of the 2026 F2 season at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona. Starting from second on the grid, Maini needed no time to announce his intentions. The BWT Alpine F1 Team reserve driver crossed the finish line with a 7.2-second winning margin, the second-largest of the season.

Connolly stars for Aus: Opener Cooper Connolly blazed 149 runs off 134 balls to lead Australia to a dramatic one-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the third and final ODI in Mirpur on Sunday. **Brief scores: Bangladesh: 274/5 in 50 overs** (Litton Das 58, Towhid Hridoy 83, Mosaddek Hossain 56n.o; Xavier Bartlett 2-47, Matt Renshaw 2-44) lost to **Australia: 277/9 in 49.3 overs** (Cooper Connolly 149, Marnus Labuschagne 29, Cameron Green 27, Oliver Peake 27; Shoriful Islam 6-48).

SL level series: Sri Lanka leveled the three-match T20 series with a 37-run win over the West Indies on Saturday. **Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 194/6 in 20 overs** (Kusal Mendis 31, Kamil Mishara 61, Dasun Shanaka 58; Matthew Forde 2-38, Shamar Joseph 3-32) bt **West Indies: 157 all out in 18.1 overs** (Shimron Hetmyer 36, Rovman Powell 43; Dunith Wellalage 2-28, Dushmantha Chameera 3-9, Wanindu Hasaranga 3-38).

Karun to lead Coastal Kings Mangaluru: Coastal Kings Mangaluru announced Karun Nair as captain on Sunday ahead of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament. Shreyas Gopal will be his deputy.

K'taka swimming squad named: The Karnataka Swimming Association named a 38-member state squad for the Senior National Championship, to be held in Ahmedabad from June 16-21. Olympians Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu will spearhead the defending champions' challenge.

Deepti, Smriti power India to victory

Beat Arch-Rivals Pakistan By 64 Runs

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Questions over the form of opener Smriti Mandhana and spinner Deepti Sharma had lingered over India's preparations for the ICC T20 World Cup. On Sunday at the Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham, the experienced duo provided emphatic answers.

Smriti's fluent 44-ball 68 laid the platform for India's commanding 64-run victory over arch-rivals Pakistan, before Deepti's guile and precision dismantled the chase as she returned career-best figures of 5/10 in the Group I campaign opener.

In the process, Deepti also became the leading wicket-taker in women's T20 internationals, taking her tally to 166 wickets.

Opting to bat, India recovered from an early wobble to post a competitive 170/6, built around Smriti's half-century and a late flourish from Richa Ghosh, whose unbeaten 17-ball 34, studded with five boundaries and a six, injected crucial momentum into the innings.

T20 WORLD CUP

Pakistan began their chase steadily but found themselves trapped in India's spin web. Deepti led the charge, with Shree Charani (3/21), Shafali Verma and Shreyanka Patil providing excellent support as Pakistan were bundled out for 106.

Pakistan's innings began to unravel in the fifth over when Gull Feroza misjudged the bounce while attempting a reverse sweep off Deepti and offered a catch to Bharti Fulmali. India tightened their grip in the 12th over when Deepti effected the run-out of the well-set Muneeba Ali (41), leaving Pakistan precariously placed at 74/4. The off-spinner then wrapped up the contest in the 17th over claiming the final three wickets in the space of five deliveries.

Getty Images

FIVE STAR: Deepti Sharma returned career-best figures on Sunday

Earlier, India got off to an uncertain start. Shafali signalled her intent by launching Sadia Iqbal over long-off for a six but fell in the same over. Jemimah Rodrigues soon followed, top-edging Tasmia Rubab to Natalia Pervaiz at extra cover as India slipped to 18/2.

That brought together India's two most experienced batters, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti.

Smriti assumed control of the rebuilding job, piercing gaps with ease and finding the boundary regularly to calm early nerves. Pakistan's fielding did little to ease the pressure, with Smriti reprieved twice on 27 and 55. Smriti brought up her half-century in style in 34 deliveries, stepping out to drive Rameen Shamim through extra cover. By the time Fatima Sana held on to a low catch off Shamim's bowling to dismiss Smriti, the 91-run stand with Harmanpreet had carried India beyond the 100-run mark.

With boundaries drying up briefly, Richa provided the finishing touches. The wicketkeeper-batter tore into the Pakistan attack as India plundered 38 runs from the last two overs.

Brief scores: India: 170/6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 68, Harmanpreet Kaur 36, Richa Ghosh 34; Sadia Iqbal 2-41, Fatima Sana 2-33) bt **Pakistan: 106 all out in 17 overs** (Muneeba Ali 41; Deepti Sharma 5-10, Shree Charani 3-21); **New Zealand 162/6 in 20 overs** (Brooke Halliday 40, Izzy Gaze 39, Maddy Green 35n.o; Aaliyah Alleyne 4-27) lost to **West Indies 163/3 in 19.5 overs** (Shemaine Campbelle 90n.o); **Netherlands 139/8 in 20 overs** (Babette de Leede 50; Marufa Akter 2-31) lost to **Bangladesh 141/4 in 19.1 overs** (Juairiya Ferdous 50, Sharmim Akhter 37; Caroline de Lange 2-27).

Dhiraj completes golden double

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Kolkata: It took India's top recurve archer Dhiraj Bommadevara 20 long years since picking up the bow to win a gold at the World Cup. And when he did that, he bagged a 'double' at the World Cup Stage-III at Antalya on Sunday.

Pairing up for the first time this season, the 24-year-old Olympian Dhiraj and 17-year-old Kumkum Anil Mohod stunned the Korean duo of Kim Je-deok and Oh Ye-jin 5-1 (37-36, 37-36, 39-39) to win India's first World Cup recurve mixed team gold medal match since Antalya 2022, when Ridhi and Tarundeep Rai ended on top.

ARCHERY

World Archery

DYNAMIC DUO: Kumkum Anil Mohod and Dhiraj Bommadevara

It was almost a perfect run for the duo who defeated Denmark 6-0, USA 6-2 and Germany 6-2 to book a place in Sunday's final against Korea, who had won both Olympic mixed team gold medals since the event joined the Games at Tokyo 2020.

Hours later, Dhiraj returned to the arena to tame Germany's Moritz Wieser 6-4 (26-27, 28-28, 28-28, 30-27, 28-23) in the individual semi-final and then South Korea's Lee Woo Seok, the Paris Olympics bronze medallist, 7-3 (30-29, 29-28, 27-27, 27-29, 30-29) in the summit clash.

Dhiraj, who made his World Cup debut in 2021, thus improved upon his 2023, 24 and 25 World Cup bronze medal winning performances and made the season-ending World Cup Finals too.

Rising star Kumkum was also part of the women's recurve team which stunned 10-time Olympic champions Korea in the semifinals en route to gold in the Shanghai World Cup last month.

Although more experienced Dhiraj was seen guiding Kumkum throughout the final, he later stated, "I learnt a lot from her fearless way of shooting."

Hami ends Kimi's run

Lewis Hamilton claimed his first victory for Ferrari on Sunday at the Barcelona-Catalunya Formula One Grand Prix, ending championship leader Kimi Antonelli's five-race winning streak. The seven-time world champion finished ahead of George Russell and Lando Norris, while Antonelli was forced to abandon in the final stages because of a technical problem.

FORMULA ONE

Hamilton, 41, cut down Antonelli's title lead to 41 points by triumphing on a Sunday nearly two years after he last won a race. "It's not over, that's for sure," said Hamilton of the championship race.

Mercedes polesitter Russell came in 19 seconds behind Hamilton, with Norris completing an all-British podium, the first since the 1968 United States Grand Prix. "You have helped me so much to achieve this dream, I cannot thank you enough," said Hamilton over team radio. AFP

KNICKS CLINCH FIRST NBA TITLE IN 53 YEARS

The New York Knicks, fueled by a sensational 45 points from Jalen Brunson, rallied again to beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 and win their first NBA title in 53 years on Saturday. The Knicks won the best-of-seven championship series 4-1, denying Victor Wembanyama and his Spurs teammates on their home floor to lift the trophy for the first time since 1973. The Knicks, who recovered from 29 points down in game four in the biggest comeback win in Finals history, erased a double digit deficit to win for the fourth time in the series. AFP

India lose opener

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The Indian men's hockey team began their European leg of the FIH Pro League on a losing note as they went down 2-3 to the Netherlands in Rotterdam on Sunday.

Despite the defeat, it was a much-improved showing by Craig Fulton's men compared to their performances in the first eight matches earlier in the year. For India, Dilpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh scored, while Miles Bukkens, Koen Bijen and Tijmen Reyenga found the net for the Dutch. However, the margin could have been bigger if not for Suraj Karkera, who was outstanding in goal in the first half, ensuring the Netherlands failed to convert any of their first 10 penalty corners.

HOCKEY

Meanwhile, the match also saw Manpreet Singh equal Dilip Tirkey's long-standing record of 412 international appearances — the most by an Indian.

INDIAN WOMEN EYE POSITIVE START

With goals firmly set on returning to the elite FIH Pro League next season, the Indian women's team is determined to make a positive start to its campaign in the FIH Nations Cup against a tricky USA in Auckland on Monday.

New Lucky Star FC prevail

New Lucky Star FC registered a hard-fought 4-3 win over Active Union FC in the BDFA 'C' Division League football championship in Bengaluru on Sunday. Uday Kumar A struck a double for the winners, while Ethan K Jacob and Niin Thampan chipped in with a goal each. **Results: 'C' Div: Gp 9:** New Lucky Star FC 4 (Uday Kumar A 6, 40; Ethan K Jacob 17; Niin Thampan 24) bt Active Union FC 3 (Rohan Bhujel 15, 20; Likha Tskey 42);

FOOTBALL

La Masia FC 3 (Manoj 15; Aswani Yadav 26; LLoyd G Bestain 32) bt ISRO FC 2 (Sreejith Gopalan KP 4; Anand 36). **Gp 10:** Jupiter FC 3 (Surya Prakash S 17, Ramesh Babu 28, Samarth P 57) bt Bangalore Boys FC 1 (Aditya Sayam 30); Vinayaka FC 1 (Mohammed Touhid 23) bt Tilak Memorial FC 0. **Gp 12:** Young Gems FC 5 (Darshith Sanju L 13, Sufaid MK 6, 15, Da O Hi Mukhin 37) bt Excelsior FC 0. **'D' Div:** Kraken FC 6 (Zoran 5, 50-pen, Medium11 9, Nakul 15, 20, Vishal 35) bt BPSS 0; **Gp F:** Revaluation FC w/o from Sathya FC. TNN

Palar emerge victorious

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Palar Sports Club, Kolar emerged champions of the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament with an 11-run win over Vultures Cricket Club via VJD method in a rain-marred final here on Sunday. Opting to bat at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Palar toiled to 123/7 in 20 overs. Shreya Chavan top-scored with a 31-ball 30, while Prathyusha Challuru added a crucial 28 off 22 deliveries. Pooja Kumari (2/31) and Kinjal Patel (2/18) led the bowling attack for Vultures.

SENIOR WOMEN'S T20

In reply, Vultures failed to chase down the revised target — 86 in 12 overs — and were restricted to 74/2. **Brief scores: Palar SC, Kolar: 123/7 in 20 overs** (Shreya Chavan 30, Prathyusha C 28 n.o.; Pooja Kumari 2-31, Kinjal Patel 2-18) bt **Vultures CC: 74/2 in 12 overs.** (Match interrupted by rain; Target revised to 86 in 12 overs).

Margaretta wins feature

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru:

Pesi Shroff-trained Margaretta, ridden by jockey Vivek, won the first classic of the summer season— the Fillies Championship Trial Stakes— here on Sunday. After the classic event, the stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) decide to cancel the last two events due to heavy rain.

1. The Kranji Plate 2000M: Stalingrad 1, Storm Shadow 2, Azalea 3, Fils De France 4, 2-1/4l, 2-1/4l, 6l. T: 2:11.21 Tote: Rs 20 (W). 12, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 39. Q: Rs 20. Shp: Rs 28. Thp: Rs 27. Trinalla: Rs 57 & 39. Exacta: Rs 74 & 48. **2. The Malenahalli Plate 1600M:** Tyaaraa 1, Sea Diamond 2, Agape 3, Turkoman 4, Not Run: Michiko. Nk, 3-1/2l, Ns. T: 1:43.82 Tote: Rs 22 (W). 12, 55, 20 (P). Fc: Rs 565. Q: Rs 486. Shp: Rs 195. Thp: Rs 68. Trinalla: Rs 2624 & 843. Exacta: c/o (Rs 15655). **3. The Treasure Girl Plate 1100M:** Ravishing Queen 1, Garzian 2, Auspicious King 3, Atman 4, Not Run: Nimbus Speed. 2-1/2l, 2l, 4-3/4l. T: 1:07.88. Tote: Rs 18 (W). 12, 12, 12 (P). Fc: Rs 37. Q: Rs 26. Shp: Rs 27. Thp: Rs 43. Trinalla: Rs 214 & 79. Exacta: Rs 365 & 120. **4. The Parsiana Plate 1400M:** Bellavita 1, Aquastic 2, Small Dreams 3, Silicon Star 4, 1-1/4l, 5-1/4l, Shd. T: 1:27.16. Tote: Rs 31 (W). 17, 12, 16 (P). Fc: Rs 174. Q: Rs 73. Shp: Rs 36. Thp: Rs 47. Trinalla: Rs 311 & 156. Exacta: Rs 1484 & 595. **5. The Stewards Cup 1400M:** Crosswater 1, Elysium 2, Star Studded 3, Don Carlos 4, 1/2l, 1/2l, 1l. T: 1:28.20. Tote: Rs 48 (W). 28, 12 (P). Fc: Rs 138. Q: Rs 34. Shp: Rs 51. Thp: Rs 31. Trinalla: Rs 319 & 161. Exacta: Rs 824 & 224. **6. The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Fillies Championship Stakes (grade I) 1600M:** Margaretta 1, Havoc 2, Starzella 3, Vortex 4, 2-3/4l, Lnk, 3-1/2l. T: 1:41.13. Tote: Rs 14 (W). 13, 31 (P). Fc: Rs 72. Q: Rs 48. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 33. Trinalla: Rs 108 & 28. Exacta: Rs 367 & 233. **Jackpot:** Rs 917. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 170. **First Treble:** Rs 1249. **Second Treble:** Rs 10.

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